

VIA BRINDISI]

The London and China Telegraph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE P. & O. MESSAGERIES AND PACIFIC MAILS FROM CHINA JAPAN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS." A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

VOL. XIX.—No. 714.] LONDON, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1877.

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Latest Advices.

Ports	OUTWARD.		HOMeward.
	From London.	Arrived out.	Received May 7.
JAPAN —Yokohama	Jan. 26	Mar. 16	Mar. 20
Yedo	—	—	16
Ozaka and Hiogo	—	—	14
Hakodadi	—	—	11
Nagasaki	—	—	17
CHINA —Peking	—	—	15
Tien-tsin	—	—	17
Chefoo	—	—	15
New-chwang	—	—	17
Hankow	19	8	13
Kiu-kiang	—	—	21
Chin-kiang	—	—	23
Shanghai	Feb. 2	18	23
Ningpo	—	—	21
Poochow	—	—	20
Formosa	—	—	22
Amoy	—	—	27
Swallow	—	—	29
Hong Kong	16	26	27
Canton	—	—	28
Macao	—	—	25
PHILIPPINES —Manila	—	—	20
COCHIN-CHINA —Saigon	9	17	30
SIAM —Bangkok	2	16	30
BORNEO —Labuan	—	—	25
Sarawak	—	—	26
JAVA —Batavia	—	—	30
Semarang	—	—	17
Sourabaya	—	—	—
MALACCA STRAITS —Singapore	Mar. 3	Apr. 3	Apr. 5
Penang	3	Mar. 31	7
Ceylon —Galle	16	Apr. 7	13
Colombo	—	—	17

THE MAILS, &c.

The P. and O. mail, with the advices dated as above, was delivered, via Brindisi, this morning, its due date. There are no later Japan advices via San Francisco. The next in-ward (French) mail, from Yokohama 27th, Shanghai 30th March, Hong Kong 5th, Singapore 17th April, which is due, via Marseilles, on Monday next, the 14th inst., left Marseilles this morning, and will reach London to-morrow, six days early.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company's cable between Shanghai and Amoy is interrupted, but the company's land lines in Russia are restored and the communication by the company's lines with Shanghai and all Japanese stations is therefore again perfect. The Eastern Extension Company's lines are working satisfactorily.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS INWARD.

By this mail to Brindisi and Venice, per P. and O. steamer *Pera*, arrived May 3.—From Hong Kong: Mr. W. L. Hunter. From Singapore: Mr. J. Ross; to Gibraltar: F. Boycott. From Galle: Mr. Aitken, Mr. Spence. From Yokohama to Venice: Mr. F. M. Lacey.

Per P. and O. steamer *Nepaul* to Southampton.—None.

To London per steamer *Stentor* (Holt's line), expected May 7.—From Shanghai: Mr. W. R. Davidson, Mr. P. Davidson, Mr. J. J. Turner, Miss Woodward. From Hong Kong: Mr. A. Beveridge. From Singapore: Mrs. Plunkett and child.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Hooghly*, from Marseilles, May 6.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. Forester, Mr. Balanche, Mr. Balitte, Mr. Eulrin, Mr. Dourille, Mr. Scheid, Mr. Osouf, Mr. Aschenter, Mr. Kawarue, Mr. Hashimoto, Miss Cope. To Saigon: Comte General J. Alliere and suite. To Batavia: Mrs. Duperron, Mr. Van der Loeff, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. de Hart, Mr. J. D. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Goncalves. To Singapore: Mr. and Mrs. W. Warbolland and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Luchminger, Mr. E. Scott Russell, Mr. Baumgarten, Mr. Possenti.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Jadwy*, from Marseilles, May 20.—To Shanghai: Mr. Petit Jean, Mr. and Mrs. Cay, Messrs. E. A. Deacon, G. A. Phillips, C. W.

Davis, Tarnalin. To Hong Kong: Mr. C. V. de Cereul and family. To Batavia: Mr. J. A. F. Van der Bulte. To Colombo: Mr. E. G. Harding.

Per P. and O. steamer *Dacca*, from Southampton, May 3.—To Hong Kong: Lieut. H. D. Law, Nav. Sub. Lieut. F. Lancelot, Dr. T. D. Fogham, Mr. G. Hecksher. To Singapore: Dr. and Mrs. Little and two children, Mrs. Wells, Miss Silvers, Miss Lawrence. To Penang: Mr. C. N. Van Goor.

Per P. and O. steamer *Australia*, from Southampton, May 17.—To Shanghai: Mr. Lazarus. To Singapore: Capt. and Mrs. A. Glen.

To Batavia, per steamer *Prins van Oranje*, from Nieuwediep, April 28.—Mr. and Mrs. O. Von Below and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. Burgmans and child, Mr. S. H. J. Bogeman, Mr. H. Ravenswaay, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Withers and seven children, Mr. J. Schulten, Mr. J. J. Van Dulken, Mr. J. Claus, Mr. J. Roysenbach, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Van Der El and three children, Mrs. N. Severing and sister, Mrs. Bousquet, Mr. J. J. Geul, Mr. H. Koot, Mrs. Vigetius, Mr. J. G. Thooft, Mr. Kruit, Mrs. J. A. G. S. Pompe Van Meerdervoort, Mr. G. Gorter, Mr. J. W. Knikias, Mr. A. de Wael Malefy, Messrs. J. and G. Courton, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. A. Sauer and two children, Mr. S. K. Van Der Kolk, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hoogendyk and three children, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bergman and two children, Mr. A. Van Der Luy, Ver, Mr. W. Huygens, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dockheer and two children, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Prins and child, Mr. F. W. Stirk and three children, Mr. H. F. Barkhuyzen, Mr. J. G. Blau-an, eight subaltern officers and 150 soldiers.

Per steamer *Neptune* (Holt's line), from Liverpool, May 3.—To Singapore: Mr. Bony, Mr. Schelmerdine.

Summary of News from the Far East.

Matters in connection with the new Convention continue to progress as rapidly in China as they move slowly here. A notification has been published by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, setting forth that the Chinese Government have given information that the ports of Ichang, Wuhu, Wenchow and Pakhoi will be opened to foreign trade on the 1st April, and that officers of H.B.M.'s Consular Service have been authorized to act temporarily as British Consuls at those places from and after the above date. The Customs arrangements at the six places of call on the Yangtze have not, however, been completed. By the latest accounts from Ichang, it appears that the premature planting of the boundary stones of the new concession, of which news was brought by last mail, has led to further difficulties; that the people have pulled down the house tenanted by the members of the "Inland Mission," and that Messrs. Dick and May (the Harbour-master) have been mobbed, and attacked with brick-bats and bamboos. They were forced to take refuge in their boats. The arrangements for the better Government of Formosa to which attention was called some time back have assumed the shape of an official memorial in the *Peking Gazette*. In this document it is proposed that the Governor of Fulkien should reside permanently in that island, and that the affairs of the mainland should be administered by the Governor-General alone, as is done in Chihli and Szechuen. The proposal is stated to be under the consideration of the Chinese Government, and it is probably in connection with this that Ting Footai recently expressed his anxiety to have a line of telegraph constructed between Formosa and the mainland. By latest advices the *Austral* was still badly ashore about forty miles below Ichang. The U.S. Consul was to leave Hankow for Ichang on the 14th March; and the Hon. Geo. F. Seward, U.S. Minister, was expected to arrive shortly in Shanghai from Peking. The Minister for the Netherlands has issued a Circular, appealing to his countrymen to aid the refugees from the famine. Several Chinese officials have expressed to our Consular officers their appreciation of the aid extended by foreigners to the sufferers from that disaster. The latest accounts

state that some of the unlucky people are throwing themselves down wells or poisoning themselves, being unable any longer to endure their agonies. From Hong Kong there is little news of importance. The Postmaster-General's report shows a falling off of \$11,000 in the revenue. The Chinese residents have subscribed over \$4,000 for the relief of the famine stricken population in the north. A Naval Court of Inquiry on the British ship *Johanna O'Garra* was proceeding when the mail left.

The particulars in the papers to hand by the present mail with reference to the progress of the civil war are even more meagre than those previously received, the Government having been able as time went on to bring still more pressure than at first to prevent the publication of intelligence. So far as was known, however, no important engagements had taken place. Another meeting had been convened by the foreign residents in Yokohama with reference to the establishment of a volunteer corps, which movement had been delayed in consequence of the protest of the Japanese City Governor. The so-called "confessions" of the men who have declared they were employed by the Government to assassinate General Saigo are published in detail, but it is perhaps almost superfluous to point out that confessions and statements of accomplices require by the rules of sound judgment and fairness, as well as those of law, some confirmation from more credible sources, and that such corroboration is wanting in the present instance. A new gunboat called the *Amagi Kan* has been launched.

JAPAN.

YOKOHAMA.

Advice by this mail extend to the 20th March; the French mail from London Jan. 26 arrived out on the 16th March.

The *Japan Mail* of the 17th March reverts to the subject of the alleged attempt on the part of the Government to accomplish the assassination of General Saigo; and it publishes in full the translation of the confessions made by the spies, who claim to have been entrusted with the mission, and who were arrested before they could take any steps to accomplish their dastardly work. Commenting upon these statements it says:—"There stand the confessions; confessions made, in some cases, voluntarily by the agents employed to carry out the plot, and apparently in no case wrung from them by application of torture, for Nakahara Hisao and others have been received back by the Imperial Government in good health. At present we can add little to our remarks of last week. The confessions must strike every one as being singularly clear, straightforward, and coinciding. If they contain the truth and only the truth, they do not contain the whole truth, for the names of only two high officials appear, whereas had it been decided that the army and navy were to aid in the general massacre which was to follow the disturbance that it was expected would arise from the murder of the Commander-in-Chief, it stands to reason that the consent of the members of the Administration must have been obtained, and that the scheme was the result of combined deliberation. While we have no wish to condemn the Government, unheard, as guilty of the shameful crime of attempted assassination, we cannot pass over the matter as a monstrous fable. The revelations are too well borne out by many events to permit of its dismissal without comment or inquiry. We do not scruple to say that the Government is gravely compromised by these disclosures, and if it would not lose caste in the eyes of the world, it must lose no time in giving incontestable proofs of its innocence of the foul charge."

Nothing of importance has transpired, or is allowed to be published, in connection with the civil war in the South. Mere skirmishes, and a few hand-to-hand fights, in which both sides seem to show the greatest pluck, and which end in no advantage to either party, are all the items of intelligence to hand. The question of establishing a volunteer corps has again been discussed; and a second meeting has been held, at which the Chairman, Mr. Litchfield, remarked that he knew of no British law which forbade British subjects to bear arms, and at which General Van Buren, in deprecating the action of the Governor of Kanagawa in protesting against the Consuls of different nationalities giving countenance to the scheme, stated that the British Chief Justice in the East was a member of the Volunteer Corps at Shanghai. Not only was Sir Edmund Hornby Colonel of the Corps previous to 1869, and chief mover in the new force got up during the disturbances in Tientsin, but the same position has been held by both Sir Thomas Wade and Sir Harry Parkes. It was held to be absurd to talk about expression of "distrust or unfriendliness" towards the Japanese Government, or causing them "needless and wanton mortification," as the promoters of the scheme had no intention of expressing anything of the kind.

Particulars are published concerning the landing of a cargo of dead bodies at Shinagawa. It appears that about ninety bodies were lowered into boats by means of straw ropes, and it would seem were to be sent off to their friends for interment. Some exaggerated statements had got abroad on the subject.

The *Japan Mail* publishes the Monthly Return of his Imperial Majesty's Customs of Japan for the month of January, 1877, published by the order of the Inspector-General of Customs, and which it is intended in future to issue every month. The summary shows the declared value of—

Total exports to be	Gold yen 1,143,189 24	
Duty		40,621 30
Total imports	2,003,783 33	
Duty		87,069 90
Total exports and imports...	3,146,977 57	
Total collected duty		127,691 20
Imports excess over exports	860,599 09	
Treasure exported	Gold yen 300,440 30	
Do. imported	320,079 65	
Imports excess over exports		10,638 35

Collections from storage, warehouse entrance, and miscellaneous sources Gold yen 2,290 17

The launch of the *Amagi Kan* took place at Yokosuka on the 13th March. She is a gun-boat about 260 feet long and 1,800 tons burthen, being a sister ship to the *Seiki Kan*, which was built at the same place some few years ago. Mr. Terashima, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was present on the occasion, accompanied by two young Princess of the Blood, who are cadets of the Naval College, and wore the uniform of that establishment.

CHINA.

TIENTSIN.

The *Daily News* correspondent, under date March 14th, writes:—

H.E. George F. Seward is looked for any moment on his way to Shanghai. We are having frequent high winds of late, which fill the air with dust to such an extent as to obscure the sun at times. Also an occasional cloudy and dark day. Were it not for the dust, our weather would generally be very pleasant at this season. The first fleet of yellow funnels has come and gone. At one time there was a continuous line of six of them along the bund. Under the new colours (in two senses) and the new names old friends could scarcely be recognised. We have just lost two of our community Mr. B. C. G. Levot, of the British Consulate, who goes to Tamsui; and Mr. J. Achison, of the Imperial Customs, transferred to Canton. Their places are filled, the first by Mr. J. R. Coulthard, temporarily; and the latter by Mr. Morse, recently of Shanghai.

The *Celestial Empire* of the 22nd March gives the following harrowing account of the sufferings in Shantung:—

We hear that the distress in Shantung has reached such a pitch that the unfortunate people are throwing themselves down wells and poisoning themselves with arsenic, unable any longer to bear their sufferings. At Tai-nan Fu they are bringing their children to the Roman Catholic bishop saying that if he will not take them into his orphanage they will kill them. From Tungchow Fu we hear that a good deal of grain is coming into the province through the small rivers, but the people who are famishing are those who have no money to buy it. The Bishop above referred to is distributing over a hundred dollars a day to the poor, but has quite exhausted his resources. We are therefore glad that part of the money subscribed by the community of Shanghai has been forwarded to him. More grain would find its way to the suffering province were it not that the mandarins forbid merchants to sell at higher prices than those of last year, and this checks importation.

ICHANG.

A correspondent gives the details of the recent disturbance at the above place. It appears that Consul King found the Custom House officials, who had arrived a week or ten days in advance of him, safely residing in their boats, and the people quiet. It seems that some missionaries were also residing in the city, and, indeed, had been there, quietly going in and out among the people, for some months. Everything seemed outwardly favourable to the Consul's mission, but no sooner had negotiations been commenced for the purchase of land, than the old anti-foreign spirit and hostility to every encroachment of the hated barbarian immediately manifested itself. The literati, as usual, were the instigators of the attack, and the mandarins appear to have been powerless. The same old tactics were pursued to incite the fury of the populace to the proper pitch. Inflammatory placards were posted, warning the people against renting or selling property to foreigners; and reports were diligently circulated that the foreign Powers intended to take forcible possession of a piece of ground for a concession—erecting the inhabitants, desecrating ancestral graves, interfering with the

fung-suei of the city, and bringing endless calamities upon the people. Some half-dozen leading men of the literary class were conspicuous by their activity in getting up this agitation. A public meeting was convened in a neighbouring temple, and resolutions were passed with the evident determination of putting a stop to all further negotiation for the purchase of land, and if possible of ejecting every foreigner from the city. Several mandarins, who were engaged officially in selecting and marking off the site, were insulted and maltreated by the mob, and the next step was to give notice to the missionaries that unless they cleared out in three days their house would be pulled down, and they would be driven out at the risk of their lives. As the missionaries showed no signs of heeding these warnings the mob was again assembled by beating the gong, and an open attack was made on Saturday, March 3. The first report that reached us was that the house had been set on fire, but subsequently we heard that only some partitions, windows, doors, and furniture were smashed; no violence was done to the missionaries, but nearly all their books and other property was either stolen or destroyed. The district magistrate appeared late on the scene, and conducted the missionaries to a boat, begging them to leave the place, or not to return to their house until the people were quiet. The Viceroy, Li Han-chang, arrived at Ichang from Szechuen on the following day, Sunday, and it was hoped that his presence would be sufficient to overawe the mob, and would enable the British Consul to obtain immediate satisfaction for this insult, and a speedy settlement of his own difficulties. Most people will wonder why he should leave on the following Tuesday without apparently doing anything towards carrying out the stipulations agreed on at the Chefoo Convention. The only result of his passing visit which we can hear of is that on Wednesday, the 7th, another inspection of the ground by Mr. King and the officials took place, when the mandarins were pelted by the mob, and had to beat an ignominious retreat.

HANKOW.

The *North China Daily News* correspondent writes under date of March 17:—

We hear now that Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, no doubt heartily disgusted with the literati of I-chang, if not with the officials, is on his way back to Hankow, and may be expected here as soon as the gunboat can avoid running every other day or two into a sandbank.

We hear also that one or two of the Custom House officers, who were out walking on the hills, on the opposite side of the river, were attacked by the villagers, and only escaped with difficulty to their boat.

What impression the U.S. *Monocacy* may make upon the Ichangites remains to be seen. She started with General Shepard and his staff on board yesterday morning.

You may be interested to know that the appeals for help on behalf of the starving population of Shantung have not been disregarded by the community here. A subscription list was sent round by Mr. Major, which realised \$843, and an appeal to the liberality and charity of the native compradores and other Chinese in connection with the hongs brought in \$130 more. A meeting was held last evening at the club to arrange how the money should be transmitted to the famine district, when it was decided to send the contributions on at once to Mr. Jamieson, British Consul at Chefoo.

The amount would have been larger, but some had already sent subscriptions direct; and the Russian community sent some Tls. 700 home for the Servians a little time before. The missionaries also sent down about Tls. 566 the steamer before, proceeds of a collection amongst themselves.

KIUKIANG.

The municipal accounts show a deficit of Tls. 634. They appear to have been kept very defectively by the treasurer, Mr. Shaw, the amounts having to be extracted, for the instruction of the landrenters' meeting, from the books of the Chinese Shroff. It was very sensibly "resolved to forward this statement to Mr. Shaw, for his examination and explanation, and to have the accounts properly audited by an outsider in future." Messrs. Bean, Grant, and Kopsch were elected a Municipal Council for the ensuing year. The usual call of Tls. 15 per lot was agreed to: A scheme proposed by Mr. Kopsch for the general levy of wharfage dues on all merchandise, foreign and Chinese alike, was considered and referred to the Council, with instructions to obtain the approval of the Chinese authorities, and of H.M.'s Minister if they thought desirable.

CHINKIANG.

A correspondent notices, as an instance of what may be expected from the C.M.S.N. Co., that the *King-kean* arrived at eight p.m. on the 13th March, discharged all her cargo in a couple of hours, and might have proceeded on her voyage, but, as a Mandarin passenger wished to visit his friends, the steamer was delayed till six a.m. on the 14th. Another writer says, "We had a pleasant little excitement yesterday (12th). About a hundred braves from one of the camps here smashed up most of the things in one of the theatres here—foreign-owned, worse luck."

SHANGHAI.

The present mail brings advices from this port to the 23rd March; the P. and O. mail from London Feb. 2 was received on the 18th March.

The efforts to relieve the sufferers from the famine continue with undiminished vigour. It appears from the last reports that the total amount collected by the committee, for the Shantung Relief Fund, has been Tls. 9,219, of which Tls. 9,000 have been already remitted to Chefoo, and there are some subscriptions promised still uncollected. This is independent of the sums subscribed for the relief of the South Gate refugees, and other collections made by individuals, both foreign and native.

The shareholders in the China Coast Steam Navigation Company have held their annual meeting. The accounts show a profit on the year's working of Tls. 41,153. In view, however, of loss incurred on the sale of the *Dragon*, and of payments still due for the new steamer *Sin Nanxing*, the directors did not recommend any dividend. The reserve fund stands at Tls. 62,522, and the underwriting account at Tls. 21,445. Messrs. How, Wilson, and Kung Kee were elected directors for the ensuing year. The well known steamer *Ping On* has undergone extensive repairs, including a new high-pressure boiler capable of working with 100 lbs. of steam, and her passenger accommodation has been enlarged. These repairs have been all made at Messrs. Boyd and Co.'s yard, and have been proved to be quite satisfactory upon a trial trip which was made.

Some further particulars have been published regarding the recent collision between the *Sin Nanxing* and the *Fuchung*. It appears that the *Sin Nanxing*, on her way down the Peiho, grounded on the left bank just above the Arsenal bend, and that the *Fuchung*, bound up, in turning the curve, also touched the bottom and glided off on to the *Sin Nanxing*, striking her with considerable force on the starboard quarter, causing a rent, as already reported, from the deck down to the water line. The force of the collision carried the *Sin Nanxing* higher up the bank, where she remained stationary. The cargo in the aft hold was discharged, and temporary repairs commenced without delay. Subsequently the rent was boarded up sufficiently well to enable her to reach Shanghai. She was then towed off the bank, and on the following day she proceeded and reached here without difficulty. The damage is estimated at about Tls. 4,000. The Municipal Council have taken a step, which is certainly by no means premature, viz., to provide for the safety of those who visit theatres, either native or foreign. They have called for a report of the means of egress in case of fire, which are notoriously defective. It is to be hoped that the Council will insist on their being improved. Messrs. Vinay and Aymerie have been elected Trustees of the General Hospital to represent the French municipality.

The *Celestial Empire* has the following:—We are informed on excellent authority that certain very great improvements are in contemplation at Woosung. It is said that arrangements are pending for a large pontoon to be run out into deep water, in order that the mail-steamers may come alongside to discharge passengers and mails, which will be then sent on by special mail-train from Woosung station to Shanghai. The cargo, of course, will be brought up the river in the usual way. We hear that the average profits of the railway are now estimated at about a thousand taels a month.

From the *North China Herald* we take the following items of general news:—

Our readers will remember the failure of an action heard a few weeks ago, in which the China Navigation Company sought to recover from Mr. R. Francis Tls. 5,800, Kiukian currency, which it was alleged had been misappropriated by William Henry Shaw, who was Mr. Francis's sub-agent at Kiukiang. When the action was heard Shaw was away from China, and his whereabouts having been ascertained a warrant was issued for his apprehension. Its execution was entrusted to Sergeant Skinner, who was despatched on the 2nd inst. to Hong Kong, where it was expected Shaw would shortly arrive from Japan. These arrangements worked with success. On the 14th March Shaw arrived in Hong Kong, from Kobe, by the *Galley of Lorne*, and was taken into custody by Sergeant Skinner. His identification was proved before the Hong Kong magistrate, who thereupon ordered him to Shanghai for trial. He arrived by the *Amoy*, and was taken before Mr. Mowat at H.B.M.'s Supreme Court. Mr. Wainwright, who is engaged to conduct the prosecution, was unprepared to go fully into the case, owing to the principal witnesses having to be brought from Kiukiang, and applied for a remand for a week. Shaw offered no objection, but asked for the case to be heard without unnecessary delay. He hoped to clear himself of the charge, and being in ill-health, he desired a change of climate as soon as possible. He was remanded for a week, bail being offered in his own recognisances of \$1,000 and two sureties in \$500 each.

We hear that a large proportion of the heavier fines inflicted in the recent gambling case heard at the Mixed Court has been paid, and the delinquents set at liberty. The four pawnbrokers who were fined \$100 each still hold out, however, saying they cannot raise the money. They are therefore still detained at the

Central Police Station. The Pekingese sentenced to be bamboozed is also confined there, but why he should be kept waiting so long for the infliction of the sentence seems strange. Some of the smaller fines imposed on the gamblers imprisoned at the Mixed Court have also been paid; and it is considered probable that the whole amount will have been paid in a few days.

On the 14th March, at the Mixed Court, before the Chinese Magistrate Chen and Dr. Yates, Ping-tao-teen, a Chinese coal broker, was charged with conspiring with and assisting other people to defraud the Shanghai Gas Company of the value of a quantity of coal. After hearing the evidence of Mr. G. J. Yeo, engineer and manager of the gas works, who from the books proved that during his absence in England coal had been delivered short of weight to the value, on one dealer's account alone, of Tls. 722.75; that the company had been charged full weight for the same, and had been therefore defrauded to that amount; it transpired, by the admission of the native coal merchant himself, trading under the hong name of Yuen-hang, that he had superintended the delivery of several quantities of coal sold by him, through the broker, to the Gas Company at their works. In all these instances short weight was delivered. One order of 163 tons was 38 tons deficient; one of 93 tons was 20 tons 15 cwt. short, and all the others more or less in proportion. Two foreigners in the employ of the company were also stated to be implicated in these transactions, and they have been discharged from the company's employ. The magistrate ordered the coal merchant into custody for further examination, and admitted the broker to bail on his giving good security.

Training for the Spring Race Meeting is progressing, and nearly every morning the Grand Stand and course present an animated scene. During one morning the large number of eighty-six ponies were counted on the training course; and judging from the unusual competition shown in the holding of numerous auctions of griffins, this number bids fair to be largely increased. It is, of course, too early to form an opinion as to how much racing stuff can be got out of the mass of raw material on offer, but as in this case multiplicity gives greater chances of success it may be thought likely that sufficient will be found to yield large fields and good sport.

The newly-instituted class-firing of the Shanghai Volunteers is progressing favourably. The Mih-ho-loongs have made the class-firing compulsory on all the members. This example should be followed by the other companies if they wish to obtain corresponding excellence at the Spring and Autumn Rifle competitions.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the Shanghai Library was held this week. The Very Rev. the Dean occupied the chair. The report and accounts were read and passed, the latter showing a balance due to the Treasurer of Tls. 54.31. Six debenture bonds were drawn for payment, the numbers being 9, 18, 29, 53, 55 and 59. A plan was presented from Mr. Kingsmill, to provide more shelf-room for the books, which were stated by the Hon. Secretary to be increasing at the rate of about 500 volumes per annum. Several suggestions were made with respect to the proposed alteration, but the matter was not fully discussed.

HONG KONG.

Dates by this mail extend to the 29th March; the French mail from London Feb. 9 arrived out on the 22nd March, and the following P. and O. mail of Feb. 16th was received on the 26th March.

The annual report of the Postmaster-General has been published. During the year 1876 there has been a falling off of revenue of \$11,725. This is partly due to the loss on exchange, on remitting to England; partly to the reduction in local rates, and partly to the competition of the American and Japanese Post-offices in Shanghai, Hankow, and the ports of Japan. The quickest passages home were, as usual, by the Messageries, and the quickest out by the P. and O. Company. The O. and O. steamer *Oceanic* made the fastest run to America, accomplishing the passage to San Francisco in twenty-three days. On an appeal being made to them through the native press by Bishop Burdon, the Chinese residents in Hong Kong subscribed over \$1,000 for the relief of the famine-stricken population in the north.

On the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor of Germany, the German ships in harbour were decorated, and a dinner was given at the German Club, at which Princes Leichteinstein and Montomoro, who were paying a flying visit to the colony, were present.

A court of inquiry has been held at the Harbour Master's office upon the British ship *John o'Gaunt*, bound from Liverpool to Manila with coals, and which was wrecked on the 8th of January on a reef off the Island of Batag, in the Philippines, the captain and crew having been brought to Hong Kong by the Spanish steamer *Salvadora*. The "Finding" was not given when the mail left.

87 A.M.

BANGKOK.

The following table shows the value of the exports of Siam for January this year, as furnished to the *Siam Advertiser* :—

To Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	\$21,222
" Singapore	381,602
" China	54,567
" Europe and America	21,000
" Java	212,266

Total...	\$748,555
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Rice amounted to \$588,757, teelseed to \$28,974, buffalo hides to \$17,016, and raw silk to \$6,660.

A correspondent has kindly furnished us with the following survey notes from Bangkok :—

Tea Rne is a place of shipment on the Menam about seventy miles from Bangkok. Ko Rat is a large central trade district of considerable importance, about 110 miles E.N.E. of the former. An extensive range of high mountains, nearly midway, has been an effective barrier, from time immemorial, for bringing the trade of Ko Rat to Bangkok. Hitherto this has been accomplished by means of bullocks and primitive carts, in an unsatisfactory manner. The enterprising young King and his government have lately had a survey made of that part of the country with a view of establishing a tramway between the above mentioned places, and opening out the rich uncultivated districts in that direction. The late survey has been successful in finding a practical gradient in a convenient part of the range. Levels along the line of track have been taken, and numerous positions carefully determined. Suitable timber is everywhere to be met with, and there exists no very serious engineering difficulties to grapple with in carrying out the Government intentions. Ko Rat is a walled city of very ancient date. It forms a parallelogram of one mile, and is the great trade emporium in the N.E. Province of Siam. Officials have been despatched to Java to observe the working of the railways there, with a view to develop the present tramway into a line of railway. Great credit is due to the young King and his Government for taking such active steps to develop his country.

JAVA.

BATAVIA.

The *Batavia Handelsblad* says: —

There is nothing of importance to be mentioned, and this is in some respects fortunate considering the absence of the Governor General. The European personnel for the Tanjong Priok works has arrived; ere long building operations will be begun there on a grand scale. The savings bank at Sourabaya has distributed a dividend of 6 per cent., and that at Batavia 6½ per cent.; the deposits in the latter bank are increasing. Counterfeit half guilders have been discovered here; the police have succeeded in tracing out the manufacturer. Cholera is prevailing at Padang. On the West Coast of Sumatra attention is being paid to the intelligence regarding the disease affecting coffee trees there. According to the *Bintang Timor*, a great flood took place at Sampang in Madura on the 7th inst.

From Celebes favourable intelligence has been received. The eldest son of Bonto Bonto, who is very much esteemed by him, has submitted. Daeng Pasele (another son), who had been a prisoner, was set at liberty after he had taken the oath of fidelity. That province is thus becoming gradually tranquillised.

The Batavian mercantile community complain earnestly of the inconveniences occasioned by the levying of the excise on arrack. The newly draughted regulation on import, export, and excise duties ought to provide for one omission at least, if the great firms here are not to give up altogether the export trade in arrack. The said draft regulation is under the consideration of the Chambers of Commerce. It would be desirable were it made public, and the whole mercantile community enabled to express their opinion on it.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the 5th April; the French mail from London March 2nd was received on the 2nd April. We take the following items of intelligence from the *Straits Times* :—

H. E. Sir William Jervois, accompanied by Captain Satterthwaite, R.E., embarked from Johnston's Pier on board the E. and A. Company's steamer *Normanby*, Captain Reddell, on the 3rd April. A guard of honour of H.M.'s 74th Highlanders was present on the pier, and a large number of residents, including H. H. the Maharajah of Johore, assembled to wish his Excellency farewell and a pleasant voyage to Australia and back here again. Lady Jervois and the two Misses Jervois had left for Europe by the M.M. steamer *Anadyr*, accompanied by Captain Paton, A.D.C. In consequence of a recent family bereavement, no public entertainment could be received by H. E. the

Governor and Lady Jervois prior to their departure, and in consequence of this the committee appointed for the purpose have resolved that some token of the regard of the community shall be forwarded to Lady Jervois and daughters in London.

The departure of his Excellency for Australia has necessitated numerous rearrangements of heads of departments, and the acting appointments are larger than ever they were before in the public service of the Colony, which is saying a good deal. The action of the Home authorities in refusing to allow Lieut. MacCullum R.E. to accompany Sir William Jervois to Australia, and deputed Captain Satterthwaite instead, furnishes another instance, similar to that of Judges, of their utter disregard of the public interests of this Colony. The Colonial Engineer, instead of being asked to retire, as he should, gets extended sick leave, and now his second is sent away on other duty, which in no way concerns this Colony, which is left to shift as it may with junior engineers to look after important and expensive public works.

It has been notified by Mr. W. E. Maxwell, the Acting British Resident in Perak, that, from the 1st April, the export duty on tin is reduced to \$10 per bhara (400 lbs.) from Perak, and \$8 from Larut.

Major-General Sir Henry Norman, K.C.B., passed through here from India on the 27th March on his way home *via* China and America.

Two public entertainments have been given in the Town-hall—one by Messrs. Hudson and Voltaire, of the Christy Minstrel order, varied by ventriloquism; and one—Willard's Wanderings—consisting of a musical and spiritualistic melange. The last was largely attended.

Mr. Hugh Low, the new Resident to Perak, arrived here by the French mail on the 27th March, and has proceeded to take up his appointment.

His Excellency Col. Anson, the Administrator, started in the *Pluto* on a visit to the Native States and Penang on the same day that he was sworn into office.

We regret to say that the Hon. W. Adamson has deemed it necessary, on account of the demands on his time by business and other public duties, to resign his seat in the Legislative Council. Mr. Adamson's resignation, which has been reluctantly accepted by H.E. the Governor, is a sensible loss to the Council, as, from his great natural abilities, his pains-taking industry, his local knowledge and experience, and his powers of expression, there is no one in the Colony more fitted to represent the community or advise the Executive at the Council table.

H.M.S. *Juno*, Captain Wilcox, arrived from China on the 23rd March, and with the *Grouler* forms the naval force at present here. With the departure of H. E. the Governor and the other recent events and changes among officials, it is perhaps as well that a ship of her size is stationed here.

A *Gazette Extraordinary* contains the following notifications:—

His Excellency Sir William F. Drummond Jervois, K.C.M.G., C.B., having left the Colony on the 2nd April, the Hon. Colonel Archibald Edward Harbord Anson, C.M.G., Lieutenant-governor of Penang, has taken the oath of office as Administrator of the Government of the Straits Settlements.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to grant three months' leave of absence to Captain J. H. Satterthwaite, R.E., Acting Assistant Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General, Penang.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to grant eight months' leave of absence to the Hon. Thomas Scott, Member of the Legislative Council.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to accept the resignation by the Hon. W. Adamson of his seat in the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements.

His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Captain E. W. Shaw, R.N., to be Acting Lieutenant-Governor, Penang.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Charles John Irving, Auditor-General, Straits Settlements, to be Acting Lieutenant-Governor, Malacca.

Mr. E. A. Irving, Assistant Colonial Secretary, reported his return to the colony on the 27th March.

His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to appoint Mr. E. A. Irving to be Acting Auditor-General, Straits Settlements.

His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to appoint Mr. George H. Anson to be his Private Secretary.

His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. M. R. Magalhaens, Assistant Engineer in charge of Malacca, to be Acting Assistant Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General, Penang, during the absence of Captain Satterthwaite, R.E., on leave.

His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to appoint Mr. H. D. Richards, Assistant Engineer, Penang, to be Acting Assistant Engineer in charge of Malacca, vice Mr. J. M. R. Magalhaens.

A meeting of ladies and gentlemen, friends and supporters of the Seamen's Mission, was held at the Sailors' Home for the purpose of thanking the Rev. Mr. Brown, the chaplain to the

Mission, and who is leaving Singapore, for the ardour and energy he has shown in the discharge of his duties while in this colony. The Right Rev. Dr. Chambers presided, and the proceedings throughout were most enthusiastic. During the evening Captain Mair, on behalf of several seamen, presented Mr. Brown with a purse of sovereigns, taking advantage of the occasion to render him a flattering tribute.

Subjoined is a copy of the Ordinance for the detention of the ex-Sultan which was passed through all stages in the Legislative Council.

A Bill for the Safe Detention of ex-Sultan Abdullah of Perak.

Whereas it has been found necessary for various reasons of State that Abdullah, son of the late Sultan Jaffar of Perak, now a prisoner in the Civil prison at Singapore, should be deported to such place as her Majesty may decide upon; And whereas it is expedient that provision by law should be made for his detention pending such deportation.

It is hereby enacted by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

It shall be lawful for the Governor to direct, by an order under his hand and seal, in the form in the Schedule, that the said Abdullah, son of the late Sultan Jaffar of Perak, be detained in the Civil prison at Singapore, or to direct that he be detained in any other place, on board ship or shore at any of the Settlements, and there to be kept in safe custody till such time as his deportation can be carried into effect.

Market Reports.

(For dates see first page.)

IMPORTS.

YOKOHAMA.—Cotton Fabrics and Yarns: The improvement mentioned in our last report had made further progress, and in some articles a fair business had been done at better prices. Yarns 16-24 had been sold to a fair extent, and quotations showed an advance; 28-32 had attracted a little more notice, but the offers made had not led to much business; some sales of 38-42 were reported at very low prices. For Shirts there was a small demand at slightly higher rates, but there was as yet no perceptible animation in this important branch of the import trade. For T-Cloths and Velvets there was some inquiry, but other articles attracted but little attention. Woollens: The better feeling in this market had fairly maintained itself, and transactions at slightly advanced rates in plain Mousseline de Laines and Black Orleans had taken place. Blankets for army use had also been in good demand, and obtained prices ranging from 42 to 47 cents, according to weight. There had also been some sales of Army Cloth at advanced rates, but stocks were very small.

HANKOW.—The Chinese New-year holidays commenced on the 13th February, and business was not renewed until after the 20th. There had been a considerable falling off in the spring demand for Cotton goods, and the market had continued very quiet. Prices were about two candareens lower than the opening rates after the New-year.

CHINKIANG.—Messrs. Spencer and Wolf write on the 21st March:—There has been a steady improvement in the tone of our market for Manchester goods, and although the business actually done has been but small, it is so far satisfactory, showing as it appears to do that the long interval of depression is nearly at an end, and that trade here may shortly be expected to be resumed with something like its usual activity. Grey Shirtings: Some demand has existed for the finer qualities of 9.10/12 lbs. at Tls. 2.30 to 2.40 per piece; in the absence of stocks, however, we do not hear of any sales being effected. Medium to good qualities of 8½ lbs. have likewise been asked for, and amongst the settlements reported in these makes are the following chops:—Red Ram, Tls. 1.67 per piece; Red Pheasants, Tls. 1.62 to 1.63 per piece; Pillars, Tls. 1.55 per piece, &c., &c. T-Cloths have not as yet been inquired for to any extent, only some few bales of 7-lbs. ordinary Mexicans having changed hands so far as we can learn. English Drills: No sales are reported in this cloth.

SHANGHAI.—An improvement which occurred early in the fortnight had been again lost owing to a sudden drop in the rate of sterling exchange, which had touched at 5s. 4d. per taal for bank bills at six months' sight, as well as to the receipt of rather unfavourable accounts of the opening of trade in the North, any activity in which remained yet in abeyance. The principal operations had been at public auction. On the 20th March upwards of 22,000 pieces Grey Shirtings C. P. Henderson's chops were forced upon the market at lower currencies, 7 lbs. realising Tls. 1.22½ to 1.32½, and 8 lbs. from Tls. 1.52 to 1.75 per piece for medium to good qualities. Privately the only Shirtings at all saleable had been best and favourite chops, Dewhurst's Eagle having touched Tls. 1.85 per piece. Sales of T-Cloths had been small, but there were buyers of Ordinary Mexican 7 lbs. at Tls. 1.20 to 1.25 and of best makes at Tls. 1.40 to 1.42 per piece, 8 lbs. 36 inches being valued at Tls. 1.40 to 1.60 per piece according to quality. Drills had been wanted at previous rates, and some moderate sales are reported of 14 lbs. English for Tls. 1.88 to 1.95 per piece. Woollens: Camlets a little firmer at auction, but difficult to realise privately on equal terms. CPH Long Ella scarlet selling at Tls. 6.66 to 6.70 per piece, Spanish Stripes from Tls. 0.50 to 0.56 per yard, and Lastings from Tls. 11.75 to 12.19 per piece. A fair amount of business had been done in Metals at unaltered values.

FOOCHOW.—The only sale had been 500 pieces 7 lb. T-Cloths at \$1.95 per piece.

HONG KONG.—The business during the interval had been restricted, the currency difficulty not having been adjusted. Messrs. Oliphant and Co.'s Circular says:—Cotton Yarns: Nos. 16 to 24 have been rather neglected of late, but values are unchanged; Nos. 28 to 32 and

38 to 42 are also held for former figures. Piece Goods: A moderate business has been transacted in Grey and White Shirtings, and the latter have commanded better prices all round. T-Cloths are not in strong demand, but holders are not pressing sales. Drills are likewise not particularly inquired for and but trifling sales are now reported. A few bales of American Drills, chafed and somewhat damaged, have been quitted at \$3.75 per piece. American Sheetings are quoted \$3.25 to \$3.30 per piece, but Jena's are nominal. The late decline in exchange is very much against importers, and holders generally of Cotton Goods are showing no inclination to sell except at an advance equal to the drop in the sterling rate. Woollens: Small settlements have been made of most of the articles under this head, and prices show little or no change. Metals: Lead has declined, and at the reduced rates there are at present no purchasers. Tin is rather firmer, and hard Tin Plates are still wanted. Assorted Bar Iron is readily saleable, and good Steel is in request. Yellow Metal is quiet, as dealers appear to be supplied to meet existing requirements. Quicksilver is rather lower, but is steady at quotations, although late receipts from California have been large. Coals: The arrivals have been 6,715 tons, comprising 5,655 tons of Australian and 1,060 tons of Cardiff. The sales have been 6,925 tons of Australian at \$9.50 to \$8, and 3,450 tons of Cardiff at 42s. and \$10.25 per ton, nearly the entire sales of both kinds being to arrive. About fifty vessels are known to be loading and on the way for this port with coals, and as receivers are showing anxiety to realise, our market has declined, and is now weak at quoted prices.

CANTON.—Sales of 500 piculs of Lead had been reported at slightly firmer prices than those last advised. Closing quotations were \$8.30 to \$8.35 for L.B., and \$8.35 to \$8.40 for W.B. and Hole Chop. The stock in hand was estimated at 580 piculs. Quicksilver was quoted at \$31.50 to 62 per picul, showing a material fall in value.

PENANG.—The demand had been very small, business had been very limited, and prices were unchanged. Grey Shirtings: Limited sales of 7 lbs. at \$29 to \$30, and 8½ lbs. at \$35 to 48½ according to quality. Small sales of 45-inch 9 lbs. at \$15 to \$46. Grey Supers: No sales. Grey Madapollams: A sale of 2½ lbs. at \$12½. Grey T. Cloths: Small sales of 6 lbs. at \$22, 6 lbs. at \$25, and 7 lbs. at \$29 to \$29½. No sale of Mexicos. Grey Yarns: Small sales of 30s at \$34, and 40s at \$103. White Shirtings: Moderate sales of Medium at \$59 to \$63 and Fine at \$68 to \$77½, according to quality. A sale of 45 inch at \$68. White Cambrics: Limited sales of 24s at \$15½ to \$15½, 50s at \$23½ to \$25, and 15/16s at \$23 to \$26. Turkey Red Cambrics: Small sales of 2½ lbs. at \$40, and 2½ and 2½ lbs. at \$38½.

EXPORTS.

TEA.

YOKOHAMA.—The business done had been very unimportant, and transactions are represented by about 700 piculs of low grades. Arrivals had been very limited, and the market closed quiet, at nominally last quotations.

SHANGHAI.—Black: Settlements reported are 1,900 chests, which showed slightly easier rates, but at the close some 6,000 chests had been settled (not formally reported) at from Tls. 10 to Tls. 14, reducing the stock to about 2,500 chests. Green: An extensive business had taken place in medium to fine Moyunee and Tonkuis, at prices ranging from Tls. 27 to Tls. 30½, principally for the New York market, but as there was no vessel on the berth, buying had been somewhat checked towards the close. In Pingueys and Local-packed there was nothing of interest to report.

FOOCHOW AND AMOY.—The season was over.

CANTON.—Messrs. Deacon and Co.'s Report says:—The only transaction to record in old season's Congou is the shipment on native account of 718 half-chests of country tea per French mail of 22nd March. Of New Season's Congou about 3,000 boxes have been shipped from this and Macao; as, however, the larger portion of the shipments are "contract" teas, the market cannot be considered as generally opened; the few settlements of market teas are said to range from Tls. 22 to 28 per picul. As far as can be seen at present the crop appears to be a fair average one, though many of the teas are somewhat deficient in strength. Canton Greens: A few small parcels have been packed for the colonies.

SILK.

YOKOHAMA.—A fall in the rate of foreign exchange and advices reporting a better feeling at home had imparted some activity to this market. Deliveries since the 9th March had been about 856 piculs of Hanks, and 100 of Ohnius and Filatures, the greater part of which was still under inspection. Prices for good Hanks had advanced \$20 to \$30; Ohnius, which formed the bulk of the stock, were firm at the rates last quoted.

SHANGHAI.—There had been little or no change either in the position of the market or in quotations. A falling exchange had enabled holders to keep up values in spite of the indifferent home advices, and stocks of desirable Tatlees had become very small and were firmly held. Re-reels: The American mail took 357 bales at prices ranging from Tls. 440 to 520 (20s. to 23s. 9d.), and a considerable quantity of the lower grades was going forward by the present mail steamer. Tatlees: Good 4 and 4½ Silk had been most in demand, and amongst the settlements may be particularised:—Pagoda No. 2, Tls. 480 at 5s. 4½d., = 22s.; Yellow Elephant, Tls. 470 at 5s. 4½d., = 21s. 6d. Trynams were in fair demand at Tls. 260 to 300 for common Keshings or common Chinorum. Fair to good 9-12 moos were quoted at Tls. 280 to 290, and fair market Lasyongs at Tls. 260 to 270.

	1876-77.	1875-76.
Settlements since 15th March	1,000	against 700
Total settlements	69,000	66,800
Stock, about	13,000	1,000

CANTON.—Messrs. Deacon and Co.'s Circular says:—An unimportant business has been transacted at irregular intervals aggregating 150 bales of Tatlee reel, of which 43 bales were taken in the first fortnight of the period under review. Prices have advanced with every purchase

made, and to-day's quotation for good No. 4 is (nominally) \$435 to \$440 per picul. Holders are still sanguine of a further rise, but taking into account the state of the home market, present London quotations, and the advanced period of the season, there appears small chance of the issue they desire. Long reels have been in limited request. Settlements amount to 70 piculs of Kowkong and other sorts. Re-reels: These descriptions have been in good demand, and 700 boxes are said to have been contracted for. Prices paid show a slight decline on those quoted a month ago. Stock in Canton is computed at 700 to 800 bales Tatlee, 50 bales Cumchuck and Lucklow, 50 bales Kowkong, and 100 to 200 bales of inferior kinds.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HANKOW.—Small arrivals of Rhubarb were upon offer at Tls. 35 to Tls. 60 for Shensi and Tls. 15 to Tls. 30 for Szechuen. Musk, fair shipment to Shanghai of Yunnan, 1 box of Szechuen settled at Tls. 50 to Tls. 85. China Grass. Small demand for Szechuen Green. Cantharides: No arrivals. Hides: Large shipments had been made to Shanghai; quotations Tls. 7.5 to Tls. 7.6.

HONG KONG.—No Japan Camphor had offered, and the stock of Formosa was very small and was steadily held for \$16.50 to 17 per picul. The Korsor had sailed for New York, taking 2,500 piculs of Camphor. Vermilion was quiet at \$33. Gamboge was scarce and held for \$55 to 60 per picul. Cassia Oil had declined, owing to the desire of holders to realise their stocks, and about 85 piculs had been sold at \$100 to 101 per picul, leaving about 160 piculs on offer. The stock of Aniseed Oil was 186 piculs and the market was quiet at \$191 to 192. Aniseed Stars of good quality were very scarce, and common grades were being taken at \$23.50 to 24 per picul.

CANTON.—Cassia: \$11.50 to \$11.60 for cases; \$11.15 to \$11.20 for mats, per picul. There had been very little demand and prices were slightly lower; 400 piculs had been purchased for shipment to Bombay; stock 7,000 piculs. Cassia Buds: \$17.75 to \$18.00 per picul; sales 170 piculs; stock 50 piculs. Cassia Oil: None on offer. Aniseed Star: \$26.50 to 27.00 per picul; stock 100 piculs. Galangal Root: \$3.00 to \$3.50 per picul; no stock. China Root: \$4.00 to \$4.20 per picul; new season's cargo offering in small lots. China Galls: \$13.20 to \$13.40 per picul; stock 50 piculs. Turmeric: \$6.00 to \$6.50 per picul; 200 piculs on offer; new cargo expected very shortly. Rhubarb: Nominal; no stock on the market. Cantharides: \$75 to \$80 per picul was asked for the small quantity, say 2 or 3 piculs, on offer. Musk: \$120 to \$130 per catty nominal; only a few small cattles of mixed sorts are on the market. Preserves: Chyloung's young stem Ginger \$5.70, best \$4.10, cargo \$3.50; Chowchow best \$4.15, cargo \$3.50 per box. Attai's young stem Ginger \$4.90, best \$3.95, cargo \$3.40; Chowchow best \$4.10, cargo \$3.45 per box. Ginger in casks of 168 lbs. \$12 to \$13 per picul. Soy: Chyloung's \$3.80; Attai's \$3.70 per picul in casks of 5 piculs. Fire Crackers: Very little inquiry and prices weak; best brands 78 to 74 cents for full and 70 cents for short count. Mating in limited demand only. Settlements reported of an assortment of old cargo at prices showing no change from previous values. Palm Leaf Fans: No demand. Straw Hats and Braid: No stock of braid on offer; higher prices are expected to rule for supplies coming forward. Silk Piece Goods: A good business is doing in fancy goods at former prices.

PENANG.—An average business had been done in Tin during the fortnight, and moderate transactions had taken place in Pepper. Tin: The market opened at \$20.20, and gradually declined to \$19.80. At the close \$19.90 had been offered and refused. Black Pepper: About 4,000 piculs West Coast had been sold at \$7.77½ to \$7.70, and 1,300 piculs Atchin at \$7.42½ to \$7.51½, 3,600 piculs being for Europe and the rest for India. Stock about 5,000 piculs West Coast, for which holders were asking an advance, and 500 piculs Trang. White Pepper: No transactions. Held for \$12.90 to \$13. Sugar: Transactions of No. 1 Penang at \$6.80 to \$7.10 according to quality. No. 2 in good demand and moderate sales at \$4.50. Chinese Basket Sugar taken for immediate delivery at \$3.45. Gutta Percha: Small arrivals purchased at \$65. Gum Benjamin: No arrivals of No. 1. Only a small stock of No. 2 common quality. India Rubber: Small arrivals and purchases at \$41. Hides: Purchases of Buffalo at \$9, and of Cow at \$13½ to \$14. Horns: A purchase of a small arrival at \$9½. Nutmegs: Held for an advance, \$72 to \$73 being asked for 110 s. Mace: Nothing done. Nominal \$60 to \$62. Fish Maws had arrived in small quantities. Purchases of unpicked at \$107 to \$110, showing an advance. Tapioca: None offering. Cloves: Zanzibar in no inquiry. Penang common over.

EXCHANGES, &c.

(For dates see first page.)

ON LONDON.

At	Bank Bills.	Credit.	Documentary.
Yokohama, 6 m.s.	6s. 0½d.	4s. 1½d.	4s. 1½d.
Shanghai	5s. 4½d. to 5s. 4½d.	5s. 4½d.	5s. 5d.
Canton	5s. 4½d.	5s. 4½d.	5s. 5d.
Hong Kong	5s. 11½d.	3s. 11½d.	3s. 11½d.
Manila	4s. 0½d.	4s. 0½d.	4s. 0½d.
Penang	3s. 0d.	4s. 0½d.	4s. 0½d.
Manila	4s. 0½d.	4s. 0½d.	4s. 0½d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	At Shanghai.	At Hong Kong.
Bills on India	Rs. 308 to 309	Rs. 225½
" Hong Kong	57 to 75 dts.	—
Bar silver	Tls. 111.25	8½ prem. (nominal)
Mexican dollars	Tls. 74.15	5 prem. (nominal)

SINGAPORE SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Tanjong Pagar Dock Shares (810 paid), \$130.
New Harbour Dock Company (\$100 paid), par.
Singapore Gas Company (25 paid), par.
Singapore Mining Company (\$25 paid), \$40.
Singapore Steamship Company (Limited), par.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Shanghai Dock Company, Tls. 200 x.d.
 Shanghai Gas Company, 112.
 Steam Tug and Lighter Company, nominal.
 French & Co. Company, 75.
 Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$519.
 North China Insurance Company, Tls. 910.
 Yantai Insurance Association, 610.
 Union Insurance Society, —.
 China Traders Company (Limited), \$1,800.
 China Fire Insurance Company, Tls. 103.77.
 Hongkong Wharf Company, Tls. 55.
 Chinese Imperial Loan, £104.
 Pootung Dock Company, Tls. 78½.
 China Merchants Steam Navigation Company, nominal.

HONG KONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank 31 per cent. prem.
 Hong Kong Gas Company, \$75 per share.
 Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, 82½ per cent. discount.
 China Traders' Insurance Company, \$2,100 per share.
 Hotel Shares, \$50 per share.
 Hong Kong Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, 11 per cent. dis.
 Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$357½ per share.
 Union Insurance Society of Canton, — per share.
 China Fire Insurance Company, \$150 per share.
 Chinese Insurance Company, \$265 per share.
 Chinese Imperial Loan, £103 (exchange 3s. 14d).
 Shanghai Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 30 per share ex div.

* The latest telegrams report the rate for six months' bank bills at Singapore 4s. 6½d., at Hong Kong 4s. 6½d., at Shanghai 4s. 5½d.

With reference to the Shanghai Share Market, Messrs. J. P. Bissett and Co.'s Report says:—H. and S. Bank: A considerable number of shares have been sold during the week, at advancing rates; on the 16th March they were sold at 27 per cent., exchange 72½; and on the 21st at 30½ per cent., exchange 72½. S.S.N. Co.: After the issue of our last report a large number of shares changed hands at par, and there was one sale at Tls. 100½; the market was quiet, with sellers at par, until the 21st March, when a sale was made at 99½. There are now sellers at par. China Coast S.N. Co.: There are buyers at Tls. 67, and sellers at Tls. 70. Yangtze Insurance Association: Shares are wanted at Tls. 610. North China and China Traders' Insurance shares are wanted. S. and H. Wharf Co.: Shares have changed hands at Tls. 82, 83, and 85. China Fire Insurance Co.: A sale is reported at \$149, exchange 73.

At Hong Kong there had been a fair business doing in Shares during the fortnight. Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Shares had been in steady demand, and had gradually advanced from 27 to 31 per cent. premium. Chinese Imperial Loan Bonds had changed hands at £106 10s. down to £103 10s. Hotel Shares were in demand at \$50. Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Shares had advanced to 35 per cent. dis., but afterwards declined to 32½ per cent. dis.

EXPORTS FROM BANGKOK TO EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA

	Total to March 14, 1877.	Total to March 14, 1876.	Total to March 14, 1875.
Horns ...	193	108	—
Pepper ...	1,555	—	476
Rice ...	—	82,199	13,876
Siamwood ...	255	956	1,020
Sticklac ...	525	—	—

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

At YOKOHAMA.—From Copenhagen, April 28, Friederich.
 At HANKOW.—None.
 At SHANGHAI.—From Sydney, March 18, Cutty Sark; April 12, Peradina; from London, May 3, Stad Amsterdam (str.); from Liverpool, 3, Deucalion (str.).
 At FOOSHOW.—None.
 At SWATOW.—None.
 At AMOY.—None.
 At HONG KONG.—From Newcastle, N.S.W., March 14, Adeline; from Sydney, March 21, Alice Mary; 22, Echo; from Antwerp, March 25, Windermere; from Cardiff, March 25, Rurik; 27, Hydra; April 28, New Era, May 2, Hannah Law, America; from London, April 28, Stad Amsterdam (str.); May 2, Argentinio (str.); from Liverpool, April 28, Deucalion (str.).
 At BATAVIA.—from Nieuwe Diep, April 27, Koning der Nederlanden (str.).
 At PADANG.—From Nieuwe Diep, April 27, Madura (str.).
 At SINGAPORE.—From Cardiff, March 29, Edward Kidder; 31, Amadeo; April 2, Nimrod; 3, Rhutinas; from Glasgow, March 31, Stanfield; from Rio de Janeiro, April 2, Antioch; from Liverpool, April 29, Ajax (str.); from Australia, 27, Clifton; from London, May 3, Scindia (str.); 4, Candia (str.); Glenfinlas (str.); from Newport, Anguste, Helens; from Cardiff, 4, Marie.
 At PENANG.—From Cardiff, March 28, Tertia; 30, Clan Alpine.
 At ANJER.—From Cardiff, May 1, John Milton.

DEPARTURES.

From YOKOHAMA.—None.
 From SHANGHAI.—For London, April 28, Glenearn (str.).
 From HONG KONG.—For San Francisco, March 22, Sumatra; for New York, 24, Korsor; for Cooktown, 26, Galley of Lorne (str.).
 From MANILA.—For London, March 2, Dorothea; 17, Valparaiso; 20, Peeres.
 From BATAVIA.—For Holland, April 27, Lord of the Isles.
 From SINGAPORE.—For London, March 29, White Rose; for New York, April 2, Ettie; for the Channel f.o. 3, Solid.
 From PENANG.—For London, March 26, Stentor (str.).

VESSELS LOADING.

At YOKOHAMA.—For London, via Kobe, Wiery Cross; for New York, Conlaskyle; for San Francisco, Tartar.
 At SHANGHAI.—For London, Nestor (str.), Hesperia (str.); for New York, Agate, Inverness.
 At FOOSHOW.—None.
 At FORMOSA.—For London and Boston, Pallas; for Australia, Empress of China, Constance.
 At HONG KONG.—For London, Anglo-Saxon, Carpa, Star of China; for Hamburg, Albatross; for New York, McNear, Mystic Belle, Tyburnia; for San Francisco, Belle of Oregon; for Portland (Oregon), Forward, Aldenbessie; for Australia, Spirit of the Age.
 At MANILA.—For Liverpool, Cadiz, Vanalis; for New York, Edith; for San Francisco, Quickstep.
 At CEBU.—For Alicante, Nuevo Lantaro.
 At ILO ILO.—For London, Coldstream; for New York, Monarchy, Spion, Ericsson, F. N. Thayer, Mount Washington; for Boston, Fontenaya, Favorita; for Barcelona, Vicenta.
 At BANGKOK.—None.
 At SAIGON.—None.
 At BATAVIA.—For the Channel f.o., Westwater, Glen Caladh, Signe, Frenchy, Maria, Jules Dufaire; for Rotterdam, Cornelia Wernard Eduard, Bonafides, Nestor, Schiedam, Friesland; for Amsterdam, Vier Gebroeders, Anna and Sophia; for Schiedam, Onrust; for New York, Aurora Australis; for Boston, Akbar; for Australia, Mathilde.
 At SINGAPORE.—For London, Burdwan, James Wishart, Madras, Ettrickdale; for Liverpool, Stanley; for Hamburg, Elizabeth Childs; for New York, Isolina, Dewa Gungadur; for Batavia, Chocorura.
 At PENANG.—For London, Hindostan, Soulo.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

From YOKOHAMA.—Per P. and O. and Messageries Maritimes steamers: Silk, to London, \$9 per cwt.; do., to Marseilles, Brindisi, Ancona, Venice, \$9; do., Lyons and Milan, \$9.00. Tea, to London, £4 per ton of 40 c. ft., or per agreement. Silk-worm Eggs, to France and Italy, 29½ cents per lb. gross. Per Ocean Steamship Company's steamers (via Shanghai): To London, silk, \$3.50 per bale; tea, £4 per ton of 40 c. ft.; waste silk, £4 10s. do.; cocoons, £4 10s. do.; general merchandise, £4 10s. do. Per Pacific Mail, and Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers: Silk, to New York, via San Francisco, 8 cents per lb.; tea, to San Francisco, 2 cents; do., to New York, via San Francisco, 4 cents. To London, by sailing vessel, £3 10s. per ton of 50 cubic feet.
 From HANKOW.—To London, by steamer, £4 2s. 6d. per ton of 40 cubic feet.
 From SHANGHAI.—To London, by steamer, £3 10s. per ton of 40 feet; to New York, by sailing vessel, £2 15s. to £3 per ton of 40 cubic feet.
 From FORMOSA.—To London, by sailing vessel, £3 7s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt.; New York, \$16 to 17 per ton for sugar.
 From SWATOW.—To England, per sailing vessel, £3 5s. to £3 8s.; to the Continent, per sailing vessel, £3 10s. to £3 13s.
 From AMOY.—To London, by sailing vessel, £2 15s. per ton of 50 cubic feet.
 From HONG KONG.—To London, by sailing vessel, £2 per ton of 50 cubic feet; £3 per ton of 20 cwt.; to Hamburg, £2 17s. 6d. per ton of 50 cubic feet; to New York, £2 per ton of 20 cwt., £2 10s. per ton of 40 cubic feet; to San Francisco, \$6.50 per ton of 40 cubic feet.
 From SAIGON.—Per sailing vessel to the Channel for orders, £3 per ton, "open charter."
 From MANILA.—Per sailing vessel, to Liverpool, sugar, £2 15s. to £3 5s.; hemp, £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton; to San Francisco, dry sugar, \$11 per ton. Per steamer, to Liverpool, via Cadiz, sugar, £4 5s.; hemp, £5 per ton.
 From SINGAPORE.—To London, by sailing vessel, gambier, 37s. 6d.; sago and sago flour, in bags 40s., do. in boxes, 45s.; pepper and coffee, 45s., hides, 55s. To New York, by sailing vessel, light freight, 60s. to 65s., deadweight, 40s. to 50s. per ton. To London, by steamer, tin, 25s. per 20 cwt. To Hamburg, by sailing vessel, gambier, 52s. 6d.; sago, 55s. To New York, by sailing vessel, gambier, 40s., light freight, 55s. per ton.
 From PENANG.—To London, by steamer, tin, 20s.; other cargo, 80s.

VESSELS PASSED STRAITS OF SUNDA.

Date.	Ship.	From	To
Mar. 9	England's Glory	Hong Kong	London
" 11	Bridgetown	Do.	Falmouth
" 13	Toutenaye	Ilo Ilo	Boston
" —	Ericsson	Do.	New York
" —	Hesperia	Singapore	London
" 15	Hera	Do.	New York
" —	Petit Bourgeois	Newcastle	Singapore
" —	Joseph Brown	Sunderland	Do.
" 18	Loelaya	Manila	New York
" —	Minna	Kobe	London
" —	Spica	Ilo Ilo	New York
" 17	Ferrie S. Thompson	Japan	London
" —	America	Cardiff	Hong Kong
" —	Vermont	Do.	Singapore
" 19	Yarra	Singapore	Falmouth
" —	Kolga	Do.	New York

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

There has been a slight improvement in the tone of the Manchester Market due mostly to the increased business in cotton and prices have ruled steadier. On the other hand buyers have shown no disposition to extend operations, except at prohibitive rates, and the feeling throughout is marked by quietness.

TELEGRAMS FROM THE FAR EAST.

CHINA AND KASHGAR.

BERLIN, MAY 4.—Official telegrams have been received at St. Petersburg stating that Chinese troops have advanced against the Khan of Kashgar. The Khan being fearful as to the result of a pitched battle, retired with his army to the fortified camp of Tuksum, where he awaits the attack of the Chinese. Jacob Beg, the Russian agent, with the Khan, has despatched a messenger to General Kauffman in Turkistan, for the purpose, it is supposed, of advising the intervention of Russia between the Khan of Kashgar and the Chinese.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SHANGHAI, MAY 6.—Manchester Goods quiet; Grey Shirtings, 8½ lbs., Tls. 1.8.8.

HONG KONG MARKET REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

HONG KONG, MAY 5.—Manchester Goods quiet. Water Twist, 16-24, \$99. Fair medium Bengal Cotton, \$12½. Total export of Tea to date 165,750,000 lbs.

THE MAILS.

PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—BRINDISI, MAY 3.—The P. and O. steamer Pera arrived here at 1 p.m. to-day, with the India, China, and Australian mails, which left at 3 p.m. for London.

HEAVY PORTION OF PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—MALTA, MAY 4.—The P. and O. steamer Nepaul, with the homeward Indian, China, and Australian heavy mails, left here to-day for Southampton.

NEXT INWARD MAIL.—MARSEILLES, MAY 7.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Peiho, with the inward French mail from China and Japan, arrived here at 9 a.m. to-day. She brings 165 passengers and a general cargo, including 441 boxes silk, 4,750 packages tea, 200 bags sugar, 549 packages sundries, and £14,610 in specie, for London, which will be forwarded by the Company's steamer Gange, due about the 21st inst.

INWARD MAIL DUE MAY 28.—GALLE, MAY 2.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Djemnah, from China and Japan, left here to-day for Suez and Marseilles.

OUTWARD MAIL OF APRIL 20.—SUEZ, APRIL 30.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Amazone, from Marseilles on the 22nd of April, left here at 8 a.m. to-day for Aden, Singapore, and China.

OUTWARD MAIL OF APRIL 6.—GALLE, APRIL 29.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Ava, from Marseilles on April 8, left here to-day for Singapore.

OUTWARD MAIL OF MARCH 23.—HONG KONG, MAY 4.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Meikong, from Marseilles March 25, arrived here to-day.

SHIPPING POSTSCRIPT.

ARRIVALS NOT IN THE TABLES.—MAY 2, at Liverpool, from Hong Kong, Mathilde; 3, Ferdinand v.d. Pallan (str.), from Bassein; Langshaw (str.), from Rangoon; passed Isle of Wight, from Bassein, for Hamburg, Chelydra (str.); at New York, from Manila, Kvik; from Singapore, Velocity; 4, at Flushing, from Batavia, Henriette Adriana; May 2, off Dungeness, for Rotterdam, from Batavia, Nieuwe Waterweg; May 7, at New York, from Macassar, Twee Gezusters; at Boston, from Singapore, Electra.

DEPARTURES.—MAY 1, from Hamburg, for Singapore, Gerhardine; from Ymuiden, for Macassar, Vryheid; 2, from Liverpool, for Singapore, Sapphire; 3, for Hong Kong, Stagbound; from Shields, for Sourabaya, Salatigo; May 3, from Penarth, for Singapore, T. A. Goddard; from Hamburg, for Shanghai, Bellona (str.); from Ymuiden, for Sourabaya, Antonia; for Macassar, Maria Anna Catharina Elizabeth; 4, from Ardrossan, for Java, Barbadian; from Sunderland, for Singapore, Charlton (str.); from London, for Hong Kong, James Shepherd; 5, for Samarang, Antoinette.

CASUALTIES.—HAVRE, May 3, a telegram from Singapore announces the loss of the Marquerite (French), which sailed from that place on March 23 for Bangkok; crew saved. LIVERPOOL, May 4, the Langshaw (str.), arrived here from Rangoon, and the Patroclus (str.), arrived at London, from Shanghai, were in collision April 12, in the Suez Canal, the former vessel sustaining slight damage to two plates on her port quarter.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.—MAY 2, Glengyle, from London, for China; Hesperia, from Penang.

MISCELLANEOUS.—SAGRES, April 30, passed, Conrad (str.), from Batavia, for Nieuwe Diep. GIBRALTAR, May 2, passed, Nanking (str.), from London, for China. MALTA, May 2, arrived, Volmer (str.), from Bassein, for Liverpool; passed, Quinta (str.), from Rangoon, for Flushing. NEW YORK, April 19, the John Buayan, from Manila, for this port, previously reported as sailed from Cape Town on February 20, was still there on March 13, completing some trifling repairs. The August Friedrich, from Singapore to this port, which put into Cape Town, March 7, had a leak in her bottom, and remained on the 13th to discharge cargo; 3, Gladys, (str.), from Maulmain, for Bremen; 4, Arethusa (str.), from Akyab, for Antwerp.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CLOUTH.—On the 25th March, at Hong Kong, Mrs. Charles Clouth, of a son.
DOUGLAS.—On the 20th March, the wife of the Hon. John Douglas, Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, of a son.
HAGGARD.—On the 2nd April, at Singapore, the wife of Egmont Haggard, of a son.
HAMMOND.—On the 16th March, at Hong Kong, the wife of W. H. Hammond, of a son.
LEWIS.—On the 1st April, at Singapore, Mrs. A. A. Lewis, of a son.
LOVE.—On the 24th March, at Shanghai, the wife of Joseph Love, Junr., of a son.
MAYLAND.—On the 3rd April, at Bank Bungalow, Kolluppu, Ceylon, the wife of John Mayland, of a daughter.

PHIPPS.—On the 1st April, at Liverpool, the wife of A. J. Phipps, of a daughter.

WOODWARD.—On the 1st May, at 17, Bertram-road, Sefton-park, Liverpool, the wife of Ernest T. Woodward, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GAIR—ALGAR.—On the 24th March, at Hong Kong, W. T. Gair, to Sarah, daughter of The Algar.

NORTHCOTE—OWEN.—On the 25th April, at Oxford, by the Rev. Alex. Heriot Northcote, M.A., the Rev. Arthur Francis Northcote, B.A., fourth son of the Right Hon. Sir Stafford H. Northcote, Bart., M.P., to Alice Caroline, eldest daughter of Edward R. Owen of Oxford.

RICHMOND—DEANE.—On the 2nd March at Hong Kong, Stephen Richmond to Helen, daughter of John Drake of Kingsclere, Hants.

STRAMANN—LOYD.—On the 25th April, at the Cathedral, Waterford, by the Rev. Russell Bradley, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Lavin, John, elder son of Samuel Stramann, of Summerland, Waterford, to Catherine Gertrude, youngest daughter of William Lloyd, of Newtown, Waterford.

TYZACK—SPURR.—On the 15th March, at Hong Kong, David Tyzack, of Keelung, to Isabella, daughter of E. Spurr of Scarborough.

WOOD—JARDINE.—On the 26th April, at Christ Church, Waterloo, by the Venerable Archdeacon Jones, assisted by the Rev. H. Burrows, Garden Wood, son of James Wood, of Teuchter, Magistrate and Commissioner of Supply for the Counties of Aberdeen and Banffshire to Ada, second daughter of Edmund Jardine, of Beach Lawn, Waterloo, Liverpool.

DEATHS.

HULBERT.—On the 29th April, at Stokes Hill Lodge, Hants, Anne, widow of the late John Spire Hulbert in her 83rd year.

MORRIS.—On the 26th April, at Nunburnholme Rectory, Anne, wife of F. O. Morris, widow, aged 67.

WOODS.—On the 31st March, at Singapore, Robert Carr Woods, of Penang, barrister at-law, son of the late Robert Carr Woods, of Singapore, aged 35 years.

THE TRADING CAPABILITIES OF THE COUNTRY TRAVERSED BY THE YUNNAN MISSION.

SIR T. WADE TO THE EARL OF DERBY.

Peking, October, 9, 1876.

My Lord,—I beg to refer your Lordship to my despatch of the 12th of July, reporting the return of Mr. Grosvenor and those with him. I there stated that Mr. Davenport was arranging the information he had collected regarding the trade of the country traversed by the Mission in the form of a report. I have now the honour to inclose copy of the report in question, as forwarded to me by Mr. Davenport. Owing to its length, the preparation of a copy has taken some time. I have informed Mr. Davenport that I should have pleasure in laying the paper before your Lordship. I consider his account of the journey to be both able and interesting, and I venture to hope that it may be so regarded by your Lordship. His observations on the trade of various places I think of special importance. The specimens alluded to in the report were, by my direction, forwarded separately to your Lordship by Mr. Medhurst, Her Majesty's Consul at Shanghai.—I have, &c.,
(Signed) THOMAS FRANCIS WADE.

REPORT BY MR. DAVENPORT.

The Mission started from Hankow on the 5th November, 1875, on board a large Hunan junk, and proceeded by the main river (Yangtze) without stopping at any place of importance until reaching Shashih on the 24th November, thus accomplishing a distance of 293 miles against the stream in tolerably fair weather in twenty days, during two of which the junk was wind-bound. This part of the river has been so fully described by Captain Blakiston and other travellers that I will merely remark that, at the time we passed up, the river traffic almost entirely ceased after leaving the entrance to the Tung-ting Lake; for, although we had seen a large number of junks daily until we reached Yo Chow, yet we scarcely met any more until we came to an anchor at Shashih.

The country we passed through being a rich alluvial plain, the products were chiefly agricultural, viz., summer crops of rice and cotton, and winter crops of beans, wheat, and several other cereals, such as rape, millet, and the like. It is interesting to observe that the system of rotation crops here in practice somewhat resembles the four-course shift which has prevailed in some parts of England for the last century. The course generally followed is, first, wheat sown in November and reaped in the following April or May, whereupon the ground is at once ploughed up and sown with the second crop, cotton, which is picked in the months of September, October, and November. The third crop, beans, are carefully dibbled between the still standing rows of cotton, and show well above the ground when the stalks of the latter are finally plucked up by the roots for fuel during the winter. The beans continue to grow till the following spring, when, a sufficient number of pods being gathered to supply the wants of the nearest markets, they are ploughed while yet green into the ground, in order to supply manure for the fourth and grand crop of the course, viz., paddy, which is transplanted in May and reaped in October.

I may here remark, parenthetically, that, with the exception of some parts of the north of China, where a drill is used exactly like our common English drill, the Chinese do serious injury to their cereal crops by sowing the seed too profusely; while, with regard to the tillage of Hupeh province generally, it was even more slovenly and unscientific than the style of farming usually to be found in semi-tropical or northern China. Along the banks of the river, and especially on the convex shore of the bends, is to be found a valuable product, viz., beds of reeds covering many acres, which are very useful combined with mud in supplying the place of lath and plaster with more civilised nations, as also for the thatch of houses, materials for curtains, mats, sails, &c., and last, but not least, for winter fuel. There is a large quantity of cotton exported from Hupeh to Szechuen and Yunnan Provinces, but a considerable portion is consumed by the villagers themselves, who weave it into a coarse cloth of a kind which, so far as my experience goes, is worn almost universally by the people of China; indeed, the only place where I can recollect to have seen foreign shirtings commonly worn was on the Korean frontier. The natives say that it is not only more durable, but also far warmer, than foreign shirtings; and I fear at this date that it is well established that the idea of clothing the imaginary "teeming myriads" of China in foreign long-clothes is a mere delusion, their consumption being confined to the well-to-do, an extremely limited class in this country. It is, I regret to say, generally allowed that foreign manufacturers cannot

supply an equal material to that commonly worn by the Chinese people at a similar price.

The mulberry tree having grown in this part of China from time out of mind, silk is, of course, produced in many parts of the province, and sent to the adjacent markets for general distribution; this branch of industry, however, did not come under our personal observation. We observed growing as a winter crop the well-known Chinese sugar-cane, from which is made excellent sugar, and whose culm is eaten greedily by the natives; also the tobacco plant, of which the leaves are said to be inferior in quality to the Kwan-tung or Manchurian tobacco, owing probably to the fact that the latter is a summer crop, and the only one grown on the ground during the whole year.

Notwithstanding the ingenuity of the Chinese in using all kinds of nets, for which the muddy waters of the Yangtze are eminently suited, the quantity and value of the fish taken out of this part of the river, though in a high degree adapted to afford food and shelter for them, would seem to be inappreciable, and would probably be accounted for in the absence of fishery laws in China, whereby the ignorant fishermen are allowed to ruin rivers and the inner waters generally by catching the fish wholesale when they come up to the shallows to spawn, at a time of the year when it is too warm to convey them to distant markets, and when they are scarcely fit to eat when caught. Almost the only eatable fish, except the perch, is the *sum-lie*, a member of the salmonidæ, which visits Hupeh in the spring, and is thence called the "season fish" by the Chinese. It is remarkable that neither this fish nor the flounder continue their journey up the river much beyond Shashih.

The population of this part of the province is scanty, the towns being small and the villages few and far apart. The cause is probably the liability of the country to disastrous inundations during the summer or autumn. These floods (as distinguished from the periodical rise common in tropical and semi-tropical regions in consequence of the rainy season) are occasioned by the irregular excessive rains falling sometimes for two seasons in succession, in the mountainous regions of western China, and then often not occurring again for several years. It has frequently been surmised by foreigners that the rise of the Yangtze was occasioned by the melting of snow during summer, because other rivers, such as the Mississippi, Ruphrates, Ganges, &c., are so affected. There are a great many reasons why this should not be the case with the Yangtze, of which I will only mention one, viz., that although there may be a plentiful supply of melting snow in Tibet in the summer, yet the channel of the Kinsha Kiang is not large enough to bring down such an enormous volume of water as is required to maintain a four-knot current in the Yangtze, in addition to converting the vast basin-shaped plains of Hupeh into boundless lakes.

SHASHIH.

Shashih is, with the exception of Chun-king, the most important mart we passed throughout the whole journey. It is a long straggling, dirty, unwallied town, built on the left bank of the river, and lying below the level of high water, in an angle formed by the junction or debouchure of a canal, which again connects with the River Yangtze at a place called Sin Tan Kow, about thirty miles above Hankow, thereby saving the long and interminable journey round the bends of the great river, and so forming the regular road between Szechuen and Hankow. A branch leading from this canal runs through the Tai peh hu Lake to Sha yang chen on the River Han, situated about 170 miles above Hankow. As is usual in the neighbourhood of these formidable rivers, the canal does not actually communicate with the main stream, but terminates within half a mile of it, the goods being carried across the embankment by mules and coolies. Another branch runs to the prefectural city of King chow fu, about three miles distant. This town is surrounded by lofty walls at least five miles in circumference, and a ditch, which on the northern face, where I saw it, was upwards of 200 yards in breadth. This city withstood all the assaults of the rebels, and is one of the very few cities in central China which has preserved its hereditary Manchu garrison intact, and thus, after the suppression of the rebellion, was enabled to supply garrisons for other cities from its ranks. In addition to this, there is a flourishing Chinese population and a considerable trade. This city was regarded by the early Emperors of the present dynasty as a place politically of the first importance, while it has always been considered by Chinese as the key to this part of China.

At a little more than two miles above Shashih, on the opposite or right bank of the river, is the mouth of the Tai-ping Canal, which, running into the Tung-ting Lake, forms the shortest and safest route between Szechuen and Hunan and Kuang-tung Provinces; and thus this town, communicating with the interior in all directions by means of safe sheltered canals, forms the natural terminus of the Szechuen trading junks, which for the most part discharge their cargo here for transhipment in small native craft, though, of course, some junks carry on their cargo to Hankow, where they are to be seen moored in the River Han. These junks, some of them capable of carrying upwards of 150 tons of cargo, line the river face of the town for nearly two miles, and average from 500 to 600 in number, without including the smaller craft. They are not adapted for the traffic further down the river, as they are so clumsy and high out of the water as not to be adapted for sailing, while the high rate of wages and the large crews indispensable for the navigation of the Szechuen rapids would be simply ruinous.

ICHANG.

On the 1st of December the mission arrived at Ichang, the appearance of which was very disappointing. It is situated on the left bank of the river, and its walls are about three miles in circumference, tolerably well filled with, for this part of China, a well-to-do population. As compared with Shashih, however, it was evidently a place of small commercial importance, as was testified both by the quietness of the streets and the comparative paucity of junks in the river. There is, nevertheless, nothing in its situation to prevent its expansion when it becomes the head of the steam navigation on the Yangtze. This part of the river was surveyed by Sub-Lieutenant Dawson, in 1869,

who stated in his report that "the river from Hankow to Ichang was similar in nature to that below, though probably subject to more changes, but nothing, he considered, beyond what a pilot's experience could keep up with;" and concluded "that the river to Ichang is navigable for steamers of seven feet draught and powerful steering apparatus from the beginning of April to the end of September, and probably, if native report was to be believed, for the winter months also.

With regard to the desirableness of opening this part of the country to foreign trade, I can only say that whatever may be the effect so far as regards the interests of foreign merchants in China, there is no possible doubt whatever that the establishment of foreign trade in Chinese towns tends more or less to secure good order and government, not only in the places themselves, but the adjoining districts, while, in this particular region, I feel sure that the population would largely increase, and, the embankments being properly repaired, the agricultural products would be more than doubled, and consequently the ability of the people to consume foreign goods largely augmented. On the other hand, since the suppression of the Tai-ping rebellion, those unopened marts which do not happen to be situated in tea or silk districts in connection with foreign trade are utterly unable to recover their former importance. These facts are allowed by the most anti-foreign Chinese, one of whom complained, a few years ago, that "the trade in the interior has fallen off very much. The larger portion of the hong in such marts as Chen-chow in Hunan, Chang shan in Chukiang, and Yu shan in Kiang si have been closed." Notwithstanding that at the present time the trade of Ichang is not comparable with that of Shashih, I should submit the desirability of opening Ichang as the terminus, with Shashih as a place of call where steamers should be permitted to take on board or discharge goods and passengers, for the following reasons:—

1. Shashih being situated in a low, marshy country, below the average level of the river, in a semi-tropical climate, would be a very unhealthy place for the residence of Europeans.
2. Its chief importance is as an *entrepôt* for Szechuen goods passing by inland waters to Hunan, the river Han, Hankow, and the lower Yangtze ports, and for their return cargoes. The first-mentioned trade would, wherever the open port might be, remain untouched by the steamer traffic, while the Hankow and lower river goods would be saved at least ten days' delay by the junks delivering their down and taking their up cargo at Ichang instead of Shashih.
3. Although the local trade of Shashih, from its being the port of King-chow-fu, probably far exceeds that of Ichang, yet it must be borne in mind that the latter port, situated in rich country, has also an important distributing trade, which, in case steamers went no higher than Shashih, would still remain untouched; while, on the other hand, if the steamers' terminus were at Ichang, the local trade of Shashih would equally be arrived at by means of the landing-stage.

K'WEI-CHOW.

K'wei-chow fu is a picturesque city built on the side of the hills on the left bank of the river. It contains several handsome buildings, and is a clean town, being supplied with fresh spring water carried over the walls by means of hollow bamboo pipes, and well deserves the Chinese title of Key to Szechuen. Unfortunately, the lower part of the city is too near the high summer level of the river, and almost the whole of two faces of the wall had recently been destroyed, and only rebuilt just before the arrival of our Mission. The hills at the back are curiously ornamented by an immense number of tombs, which, at a distance, resemble stunted dagobas. There is not much trade here, and the inhabitants are popularly supposed to live on the passing junks, which are obliged by the Custom-house to stop here for inspection.

After passing K'wei-chow fu the country becomes more open, and we gradually entered a very flourishing, though, as before described, still hilly country, the prosperous condition of which forcibly reminded one of the province of Kiang Su before the Tai-ping rebel and the Imperialist soldiers burned it into a wilderness. From K'wei-chow fu to Chun-king may still be seen a district in Central China where every available inch is literally cultivated; winter crops of beans being even grown on the narrow paths dividing the paddy fields, while barren rocks having anything resembling a flat floor are covered a few inches with soil brought from the river below and grow crops. Every possible hill is beautifully covered with tiers of terraces, and any spring to be found on a higher level is brought to them, irrespective of distance, for the purpose of irrigation.

CHUNGKING.

On the 20th December the Mission reached Chungking, having accomplished the journey from Ichang, a distance of 360 miles, in twenty-eight days. This city and its suburb, Li-min, are alike situated on rising ground on the left bank of the Yangtze, being divided by the River Foo Chiang, which is said to communicate during the high water in the summer with Cheng-tu fu, the capital of the province. This town has been so often described that I shall only say that it quite comes up to the descriptions given of it, as being the emporium of Western China, though the people informed us that owing to the exorbitant rates of taxation, a large number of the best houses were untenanted, from the failure of the hong which had occupied them, while at least half of the junks (which extended for miles along the faces of Chun-king and Si-min, both in the Yangtze and the River Ho) were laid up for want of employment. These utterances I looked upon as pardonable exaggerations, excusable in oppressed taxpayers, but was surprised to hear similar statements from the city authorities, although, of course, they attributed the falling off of trade to other causes.

The Mission left Chung-king on the 3rd of January, 1876, accompanied by the two Chinese gunboats which joined us at Ichang, there being no war junks at that city (i.e., Chung-king). We passed through much the same kind of country as below Chung-king, and in like manner, the large proportion of the poppy, or as it is called universally by the natives in this part of China, the opium plant, to the other native crops was particularly noticeable. The crops here do not generally observe the same rules of rotation, as everything depends upon the water supply. A summer crop of millet, I learn, was succeeded by a winter crop of sugar grass, which was followed by a spring crop of

tobacco. A winter crop of peas, beans, &c., generally followed a summer crop of paddy.

In many places on isolated hills the water in the paddy fields was, I was over and over again assured, simply rain water. In these situations only one crop of paddy was grown yearly, as, of course, so enormous a supply of water was precarious, and the peasants feared to let it run off for the mere sake of growing a winter crop. The land tax in this locality instead of being assessed by the acre, as in other parts of China, is levied on each crop, e.g., an estimated picul (133½ lb. av.) of rice pays a duty of 100 cash, or about fivepence sterling.

THE LAND ROUTE.

On the 4th of February the Mission started on the land journey from Gan-pien, the path lying along the right bank of the Hang River, which is navigable for small boats bringing down coal, &c., as far as a small mart called Nan-wa-tan. Our baggage was carried by Szechuen coolies, whose ordinary professed burthens were 70 catties, or 93½ lbs. avoirdupois, per man. The trade so far as Nan-wa-tan was, of course, to a great extent carried on by water, but, after passing that town and crossing the river on a suspension bridge, we came upon the main commercial route between Yunnan and Seuchow fu, the mart of central Szechuen. This northern corner of Yunnan resembles Szechuen in its agricultural products and its general configuration, but after passing Nan-wa-tan the houses become gradually inferior, ruins appear here and there, the condition of the people falls off, the land is no longer so carefully cultivated, and we gradually found ourselves on the outskirts of the region which had been devastated by a rebellion lasting for eighteen years. In a humble cottage in this neighbourhood, with his family, dressed in plain cotton cloth, and surrounded by cattle, pigs, fowls, &c., lives Hsueh hwan, a retired Minister of State, late Governor of the Province of Kiangsu.

There were evidences of quite a brisk trade along this route. All day long we met porters bringing from Chau-tung fu, the nearest Yunnan city, tin in blocks, large quantities of medicines, coal from the neighbouring hills, armadillo and leopard skins from the cities of Kai-hwa and Meng-tze on the Annamese frontiers, white insect wax from Chau-tung fu, opium, white, red, and blue copper, tung oil, spelter, tea (said to come from Pu'rh, at the south of the province), and sugar candy; besides corn, wine, vermicelli, and a quantity of other articles, which, being destined for home consumption, and belonging simply to the local town and country traffic, I shall not enumerate or comment on. The imports to Yunnan from Szu-chow fu which we saw on the way were blue native cloth, Hupoh cotton, and Szechuen salt. At the shops in the small towns we passed were to be bought grey shirtings at Tls. 2.4 a piece (at the exchange of 5s. per taël = 12s.); long silks at Tls. 8.4 per piece; and foreign thread at Tl. 1.4 per catty, or 1½ lb. avoirdupois.

TIMBER FORESTS.

This part of Yunnan produces the famous *nan-mu*, so highly esteemed by the Court for building purposes, and by the wealthy for coffin on account of its durability. This timber is to be seen in perfect condition, after the lapse of nearly three centuries, in the shape of enormous pillars in the tombs of the Emperors of the Ming dynasty, and has usually been supposed by foreigners to be teak. The tree is tall, thin, straight growing, having no bough or twigs on the stem, but suddenly shooting out branches at the top, somewhat like a canopy over a Maypole. Its bark is of a peculiar ashy grey colour, and a specimen of the leaves, gathered by myself, accompanying this Report, will prove beyond all doubt that it is not a member of the teak family. During the Ming dynasty this wood had already become scarce (having probably been everywhere cut down and not replanted), and was brought chiefly from almost inaccessible valleys, situated in the valleys inhabited by wild tribes. The Imperial Palaces at Peking were built almost entirely of this timber, the Emperor Kia-tsing, in the year 1593, making use of 15,712 logs or tree trunks, and the Emperor Wan-li, 5,600 logs in the year 1597. The regulation block or log measured 82 feet in length and 13½ feet in circumference. As the wood had to be dragged over several mountain passes till streams were reached affording easy communication with the Yangtze, a large staff of men were attached to each of the depots established in this region by the Central Government, and at each station were 100 wood-cutters and twenty engineers, whose duty was to level the roads and keep in order the framework used for aiding the draught of the timber. These men were specially hired from the department of Chen-chow fu in Hunan Province. In addition, there were twenty stone-masons to remove projecting rocks, &c., twenty blacksmiths, and fifty ropemakers to make rope from the bark of the bamboo, while the draught was performed by natives impressed for the purpose. In the year 1668 the wood had become so difficult to obtain, that when building the Tai ho tien Hall of the Palace at Peking deal was largely used as a substitute. The best known localities in Yunnan for the production of this wood are Wu-lu kou and Yu-chiaup'ing in the Taug-shen district of this (Chau-tung) department. At the present time this wood is imported to Shanghai in planks measuring eight feet long by thirteen or fourteen inches in diameter, for which the highest price is 200 dollars per plank. Whole coffins range from 100 dollars to 800 dollars, while small pieces are sold at from 10 cents to 50 cents per catty. The quality is judged of chiefly by the pungency of the scent. I have dwelt at so much length on this wood, of so much value in the Chinese market, because I saw to my extreme astonishment in the Maowyn valley, in the Kakiyen Hills, and again in Lower Burma, in places comparatively accessible, trees whose resemblance to the *nan-mu* was very striking; while I have since learnt from the Chinese official encyclopædia that this tree formerly grew in the neighbourhood of Tai-li fu and other places in the west of the province. The tallow tree (*Sil-Engia sebifera*) is common in this part of Yunnan. The tallow is detached from the berries after being steamed, but it never becomes very hard in hot weather, and it is, therefore, usual to coat or line candles made of it with hard insect wax. White insect wax is also an export from this part of the province, being deposited by insects resembling slugs or young snails on the twigs of a tree resembling the apricot

tree. Unfortunately, the twig with the insects and wax I gathered was thrown away by a tidy-minded Chinese, and during the whole journey I did not see another tree. This was the more unfortunate as the tree generally known or supposed to rear these insects is the *fraxinus annensis*, whereas the tree I saw had no resemblance to the ash. Tung oil is in much request all over China. It has three special uses—(1) as an ingredient in a polish or varnish which preserves timber, and so is in great demand for houses, furniture, junks, and boats; (2) for lamp oil; (3) for forming, in combination with lime, a plaster or chunnam much used in repairing small breaches in woodwork, in calking the bottoms and sides of junks, and the like. It is sold in Shanghai at from Tls. 4 to Tls. 5 per picul, i.e., 133½ lb. avoirdupois. This tree is a very good complement to the minute system of agriculture in practice here, as it will grow on the sides of precipices and in any impracticable corner. Its leaves slightly resemble those of the walnut tree, for which it has been mistaken by European travellers. The oil is produced in considerable quantities between this part and the Kin sha kiang.

THE PLAINS.

On the 17th of February, after fourteen days' travel, the Mission emerged from the confused sea of hills, up and down which we had been laboriously walking for a fortnight, into an undulating plain, or rather long valley, covered with winter crops, of which the chief was opium, and which were far more backward than those we had left behind in Szechuen. We had got well to the southward of the Szechuen fogs, and were enjoying a fine, bracing air and constant sunshine. Amongst the mountains we had passed, the winter was only just over, as was testified by lumps of ice still remaining at the bottom of the large earthen water vessels. So far the country was, considering its capabilities, well populated, but the people had not the well-to-do appearance of the inhabitants of Szechuen. The elevation of this plain Mr. Baber estimated at about 6,000 feet; curiously enough, it was infested with flocks of Brahmany ducks, which devoted themselves entirely to feeding on the poppy plant, in exclusion of other food (according to the natives' statement), and were remarkably tame, the inhabitants being too poor to be able to purchase gunpowder, and I have already observed that the people of these provinces seem to be wanting in the usual skill of the Chinese with regard to the working of nets.

The greater part of the plain was under cultivation, and the city, although bearing many traces of the rebellion, was tolerably well filled with a ragged population. It was of the usual Chinese shape and appearance, and about three miles in circumference, situated on a rising in the centre of the valley, and, with its numerous pavilions, backed by cloud-capped mountains, looked almost picturesque. The Commandant informed us that he had just suppressed a rising at Pi-tsi, in the adjoining province of Kweichow. He said that the inhabitants rose because the local authorities had acted unjustly in a certain place, but that on his going there he merely killed some people and the place was tranquillised. The products of the neighbourhood of Chantung are coal, to be found on every hill side; copper, from two large mines amongst the hills to the westward; lead, said to be brought from a mine in the Lo-ping district, on the borders of Kweichow; and medicines, of which, being unknown to me, I forward herewith specimens, with their Chinese names and prices. They are all exported to Szechuen, and from thence distributed over China. The shops contained a considerable supply of foreign goods, supplied wholly from Szechuen, of which the more prominent were foreign cloth (Russian), of three different kinds, sold at the average rate of Tls. 40 per piece; two kinds of long silks, at Tls. 10 per piece; white and grey shirtings, Tls. 2-80 per piece; two kinds of camlets, at Tls. 18-90 per piece; imitation camlets, Tls. 5 per piece; red flannel at Tls. 18 per piece; velvet, per foot, 5 mace. A comparison of these prices with those ruling in England will show that, notwithstanding the oppressive inland taxation and the expensive carriage by land and water from Hankow, the prices asked here for British goods are not prohibitive. Likewise there were to be seen in the shops foreign clocks and watches, Canton-made watches, Korean handkerchiefs, Birmingham buttons, foreign iron ware, Canton brass lamps, with glass globes, Canton candlesticks, glass, sandalwood, Canton counting-boards, black pepper, prepared tobacco for water pipes, Korean, Liautung, and foreign ginseng, foreign gold, silver, and cotton thread. Foreign opium is not imported into Chau-tung, there being no demand for it. In addition to this, on account of the great intervening belt of country inhabited by the Lolo tribe, Chau-tung fu serves as the *entrepot* for the metals extracted from the mountains on the left bank of the Kin sha kiang in the southern part of Szechuen Province, in the department of Ning-yuen fu.

THE WHITE COPPER DISTRICT.

First in order comes the famous Yunnan white copper, called also "petung," which is obtained from the neighbourhood of Hui-li chow in this department, and I was informed by a Chinese General, who had spent many years in aiding to suppress the rebellion in this province, and who was himself a native of Szechuen, that the only supply in this province came from that city. On the other hand, the Ming dynasty Encyclopædia places these mines near the city of Mien-ning much further to the north, and in fact probably they are to be found in the defiles worn down by the Tien an River, which runs past both cities. This white copper is in common use in every temple and private house in all parts of the Empire I have visited, being in great request on account of its handsome silver-like appearance and its durability under usage. It is much used for saucers, candlesticks, lamps, jacks, tea-pots, small hand stoves, water pipes, &c. Next in importance are the red and blue copper, which also come from the same productive neighbourhood; while, according to the Szechuen Topography, an authoritative work, gold in the ore is to be found at Yueh-sai ting, silver at Hui-li chow, iron at Yen-yuen hsien and three other places, and in the department generally lead, green jade, and other precious stones, silk, musk, China root, flint, and a kind of asbestos, from which a cloth is made called "ho pu," or fire cloth, which is cleaned by passing through the fire, while another variety is used in the neighbourhood for the wicks of lamps. The price of Yunnan white copper in Shanghai is

tea 60 per picul; red copper, from Tls. 18.50 to Tls. 20; yellow copper, Tls. 12.50.

On leaving Chau-tung the Mission again entered the hills, which appeared less fertile than those we had hitherto passed, the soil being a very thirsty red marl, through which water would soak as through a sieve. The country had been very much harried during the Mahomedan rebellion, the town of Lu-tien, a few miles from Chau-tung, having been captured and recaptured upwards of ten times, and the inhabitants, as is usual under the circumstances in China, having for the most part disappeared. The state of the remnant was almost indescribable. A Chinese Likin official living near the banks of the Yangtze wrote asking for advice to Mr. Grosvenor, and stating "that so great was the wretchedness of the neighbourhood that the poor lived on husks, with scarcely a cloth to wrap around their loins, while grown up girls of sixteen years of age had no clothes whatever to wear. The fields remained unploughed, the mines unworked, the hills bereft of trees, and the water unapplied to irrigation." This condition of affairs in out-of-the-way districts may be easily understood, seeing that on the highways even the women were in rags, and occasionally without any trousers. Prior to the rebellion the country was reported to have been well wooded, having Chinese pines on the hills, and white insect wax trees, pear, walnut, peach, and other fruit trees in the valleys. We saw little cultivation, except opium; coal was everywhere to be found in the hills, and in the neighbourhood situated the Lo ma copper mine.

TUNGCHU FU.

On the evening of the 25th the Mission reached the city of Tung-chuen fu, which was small, ruinous, and under-populated. Like all the other towns we saw in Yunnan, it was situated in a valley, a great part of which was a peat bog, which was used for fuel, an uncommon practice in China. This town was formerly a great centre for the mining trade, lead being found in its immediate vicinity, while, according to Chinese authorities, there are no less than six copper mines in the prefecture, and also zinc on the Kweichow border; there was also a silk trade here. From Tung-chuen fu to Yunnan fu we observed considerable quantities of opium, sugar, and wheat growing, with parcels of salt going both ways. The mountains were barren-looking and the valleys for the most part uncultivated. At a village called for its bleakness Lai t'ou po (scald-headed ridge), on a hill estimated by Mr. Baber to be about 8,000 feet above the sea level, having a dry marly soil, I obtained some specimens of the seeds cultivated at so high an elevation, which are forwarded herewith. From the plants known as Tai tse and Hiu tse tse, winter crops, an oil is made, used in cooking, giving out an unpleasant odour, as of a putrifying corpse. The chief winter crop is still opium, followed in May by a crop of paddy, watered by the monsoon rains. Owing to the difficulty of transport and the dearth of population amongst these mountains, rice is ridiculously cheap, and the natives said that a man could live there for less than seven cash (a halfpenny) a day. Hitherto we have been informed that no cotton was now grown in this province, and so far we have seen no stalks. The only place passed by the Mission worthy of note was the town, or rather the ruins, of Hsien-tien. During the Ming dynasty it was a place of importance, having been surrounded with a brick wall during the reign of the Emperor Kia-ting 1722-67, and made into the capital of a prefecture. It was formerly a seat of silk manufacture, and lead and copper mines are said to exist in the district, which likewise contains a black variety of the Lolo people, no specimen of whom, however, was seen by the Mission.

YUNNAN FU.

On the 6th of March the Mission reached the city of Yunnan fu, which is situated at the head of a plain in a great measure occupied by the Yunnan lake. The town is of great antiquity, Chinese history recording that a director of public education was appointed here during the reign of the Emperor Chungti A.D. 76-89. At the present day the atmosphere is not literary, the officials stating that the people were so unlettered that they were unable to obtain persons sufficiently educated to act as clerks in the Government offices. The city is upwards of three miles in circumference, and has six gates. Its southern face is well populated, but the northern half is chiefly composed of cultivated fields, a fine parade-ground, and a large swamp. Formerly there was a very extensive, populous suburb, extending for three miles outside the south gate, but it was wholly destroyed during the rebellion, and is only being slowly and in part rebuilt. The immense number of tombs covering the high ground in all directions for miles around the walls support the testimony of the inhabitants that it was formerly a populous and busy centre of commerce. At the present time, the Salt Commissioner told us (salt here, as elsewhere in China, being a Government monopoly) that nine-tenths of the inhabitants had "run away," a mandarinic euphemism for "died," during the Mohammedan rebellion and subsequent plague; and that, consequently, there was no population to consume his salt. Nevertheless, the main streets were lined with shops and purchasers, including members, chiefly female, of the Lolo tribes; while a considerable traffic was going on along the stone-paved roads leading to Chau-tung fu, Kwei-yang fu, and Tai-ti fu. In the shops were to be seen Russian broad-cloth at 3 m. 6 c. to 4 m. per foot (at the exchange of 5s. per tael = 1s. 7½d. to 2s.). Camlets were 1 m. 2 c. per foot; Dutch camlets 2 m. per foot; shirtings 2 t. 1 m. to 2 t. 4 m. per piece; chintz, Tls. 2 per piece; long ells, Tls. 10 per piece; cotton, Tls. 20 and upwards per picul, the retail price being 3 mace a catty; it comes entirely from Burmah, or almost so, as the Hupeh cotton could not be laid down at so low a price; even at Shanghai; cotton averages Tls. 11 a picul. Black pepper was sold at 18 t. 5 m. per picul. The price of rice averaged 9 mace, or 4s. 8d., per picul, and other grain at a proportionate rate. The high price, of course, only exists in the large cities. In remote valleys it has scarcely any money value. Opium was sold in cakes weighing 100 liang or 64-10 catties weight, for Tls. 13 to 14. Old opium of the same weight, from Tls. 17 to 18. There was also a variety of other foreign goods similar to those already mentioned as having been met with at Chau-tung fu.

As to native goods, there are, excluding the ordinary articles supplied

by Chinese towns for local consumption, no less than thirty-eight kinds of medicine exported from this city, being brought down from the neighbouring mountains by the Lolo. The only one recognised was China root, which this province mainly supplies to the rest of the Empire; it resembles sarsaparilla, and is a favourite with the Chinese faculty. It is also used by Chinese dyers, previous to the application of any colour, for the purpose of preparing the cloth for the reception of blue dye.

The mission left Yunnan fu on the 23rd of March, and the same day arrived at the district city of Kan-ning chow, a broken down, small town, having scarcely any house standing, and a limited ragged population. It is situated in a valley, and being formerly of importance on account of the salt wells in its vicinity, it was provided with a wall during the reign of the Ming Emperor Hungwu (1368-99). On the 23rd the Mission reached the district city of Lu-fung, situated as usual, in a valley. It first became of importance in the reign of the Emperor Kublai Khan, at the end of the thirteenth century, but it is now in ruins, having very few inhabitants. The country passed through was quite waste; the hills were covered with long grass, sprinkled with scent fir, with Chinese pines growing in favoured localities. There were no traces of either sheep or cattle on these hills, and no cultivation except at the bottoms of the valleys. We passed a considerable quantity of salt coming from Wu-tung fu, bound for the provincial capital, together with, in smaller quantities, josticks, sugar grass, figs, potash, and rhubarb, brought from the Burmese frontiers by members of the Shan tribes. At Kien-chow, in the sub-department of Wu-ting, are two salt wells, and in this neighbourhood the camphor trees formerly grew. On leaving this town we passed over a many-arched, handsome stone bridge, resembling Li ku chiau, near Peking. It crosses an affluent of the Sang koi river. On the 31st the Mission reached Kuang-tung-hien, built in the reign of the Emperor Hungwu, of the Ming dynasty, situated in a valley, and more populous than most of the places we had lately passed through. The valley was well filled with cottages, but a great proportion of the paddy land was not broken up. The country traversed was, as usual, mountainous. The northern sides were often well wooded with pines, &c., but there was little cultivation, although no deficiency of water. We observed little passing traffic except Burmese cotton.

CHU HSING FU.

On April 1 the Mission reached Chu-hsing-fu, a walled city built in the reign of the Ming Emperor, Hungwu, and a little more than two miles in circumference. The general aspect of the country passed through was beautiful and impressive, while the houses were of a better description, having tiled roofs, &c. A considerable part of the paddy land was still not broken up, but there were fine winter crops of white poppy, wheat, peas, beans, &c. This was not the first place where we observed oak shrub on the hills, which, though common enough in northern China and Manchuria, is rare here, as well as any other shrub capable of affording food for game in the winter. This city formerly contained a comparatively large and wealthy population, who lived on the salt trade, there being fine wells in the neighbourhood. Also silver mines were once worked here. A Chinese official informed me that gold was found here also, but I could not obtain any confirmation of the statement. The Encyclopædia mentions that iron and lead are found here, also "sounding stone," which may possibly be the material which furnished the ancient Chinese Emperors with musical instruments.

The Chinese work published by M. Garnier refers to four copper mines in this department, one distant 100 miles to the north-east of the district city of Nan-gan, another eighty miles to the south-west, a third seventy miles to the south-west, and a fourth forty miles to the southward of the district city of Ting-yuen. Also four silver and one iron mine in the Nan-gan district. The people of this town appeared to be comparatively well-to-do, and as a natural consequence there were beggars, the inevitable accompaniment of wealth, in the streets. Many of these wretches were affected with leprosy, which, as is well known, is now prevalent in this province, in consequence of continuous exposure to rain and damp, in conjunction with want of proper food, clothing, lodging, and cleanliness. The only outward symptoms I observed were the ulceration and falling off of the toes and fingers. I saw neither tubercles on the face nor ulcerations on any other part of the body. Owing, probably, to long habitation on the part of the wretched survivors of the civil war, these lepers were not shunned, as is the case at Canton. While on this subject I may remark that since first reaching the gorges in Hupeh and eastern Szechuen I never observed a single case of elephantiasis, so common both with men and women in the Yangtze plain. On the other hand goitre is regularly spread all over or nearly all over the country from the Yangtze to Moumein, apparently irrespective of the heights of the valleys above the sea level. It attacked people of all ages, from little children of two or three years old to men of fifty, and was universally attributed to the mountain water combined with the mountain wind.

TAI FU.

On the 11th April the Mission reached Tai-li-fu, after crossing a stream conveying the surplus waters of the Tali Lake, called Erh hui, to the Lantian or Mekong or Cambay River. By the side of this stream stands the lower pass (Hsia kuan) of Tai-li. It is protected in front by the lake and river, in the rear by the Tai-li-fu range of mountains, and on the outer flank by the river, which has worn a deep channel through the range. At this spot a Chinese military officer of high rank, who was an actor, informed me that upwards of 3,000 old men, women and children were drowned, after surrendering themselves (hsiang) to the Chinese Imperial army on the surrender of the city by the insurgents, who called themselves Mahomedans, but who apparently had no great pretensions to that name, their doctrines being dissimilar and their bodies uncircumcised. The reason of the noyade, this officer informed me, was that so large a number had been already slaughtered that they feared to create a pestilence from inability to bury such an enormous number of bodies. As a matter of fact, the plague has been endemic in the city from that time until now.

(To be continued.)

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THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

WE cannot but regard with great satisfaction the very creditable efforts which have been made by the foreign residents in Shanghai and elsewhere in China to afford relief to the unfortunate Chinese who have been the sufferers from the terrible famine which has so long raged in the North. From time to time we have called attention to the extent of this calamity, and the unceasing endeavours which were being made by missionaries and benevolent persons of all classes to afford aid to the distressed. Much good has no doubt been done by them, though unfortunately not sufficient to avert wide-spread calamity. It seems, indeed, that the full extent of the disaster had not been appreciated by those in China in time to take as active measures as would otherwise have been adopted. The accounts came only in a scattered form, and in a way which made it difficult to arrive at any estimate of the degree to which the suffering might extend; but it appears by this mail's reports to have gone far beyond anything which had at first been considered as likely or possible. Had there been any means of forming a more accurate estimate of the extent of the disaster there can be no doubt that as great efforts as were made towards the end would have been put in force at the commencement of the famine. As it is, however, the foreign residents in China who have aided in this benevolent work have the satisfaction of knowing that they have rescued many from misery and death; and it will be gratifying to them to know that their good deeds have been the subject of notice in the most influential and most widely-read paper in this country. We are confident that nothing will tend more to improve our relations with the Chinese than such acts of kindness; and we have no hesitation in expressing not only our appreciation of what has been done, but our conviction that much general good must result to our intercourse with China from this "touch of nature" which makes the whole world kin.

PROPOSED COIN FOR HONG KONG.

THE China papers to hand by the last mail publish the correspondence which has taken place between the Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the local Government with reference to the supply of a suitable coin for currency in the Colony. The Chamber have in fact revived a suggestion made some two years back, that it would be greatly to the interests of trade that the Home Government should take steps to supply a dollar coin equal in fineness and weight to the Mexican dollar for circulation in Hong Kong and other Colonies. Mr. W. KESWICK, the Chairman, endorses, on behalf of the body which he represents, the arguments which are set forth by the local bankers in favour of this measure, and which are certainly of a very weighty and forcible character. It is urged that a coin guaranteed by being issued from the British Mint would soon command confidence in China; that a great need of reliable silver coin is felt, the supply of Mexican dollars being very irregular; and that there is an inconsistency in England depending upon Mexico for a coin to be current in her own colonies. For these reasons the China bankers are of opinion that the abandonment of the

Hong Kong Mint was probably a mistake; but as it would be hopeless at the present time to expect a repetition of that experiment, they confine themselves to suggesting that Her MAJESTY'S Government should coin in England dollars equal in fineness and weight with the Mexican dollars; and they further suggest that in the event of this being favourably considered the representatives of the Eastern Banks in London should be consulted as to designs and other details. It is needless to enforce the above arguments, as they are of so obviously sound a character that it is scarcely to be supposed they will be gainsaid. The present state of affairs simply proves the justness of the position we have always maintained as to the serious error which was made in giving up the Mint in Hong Kong. It was one of those rash acts of Sir RICHARD MACDONNELL, which so much detracted from the advantages which the colony would otherwise have obtained from his undoubted administrative powers. It is only to be hoped that it is yet not too late to repair the mischief, and that some such step as that which the Chamber of Commerce has suggested may be set on foot.

Admitting, therefore—as in face of the weighty financial and mercantile authority on the spot, indisputable—the advantage to trade in Hong Kong, China, Singapore, and other places in the East, of the introduction of a coin as proposed, we have to consider whether such a step would be advisable upon grounds of general policy; whether it would be desirable as respects the interests of this country upon financial considerations; and, lastly, whether, supposing that such a step appeared to be satisfactory on these grounds it would be practicable for the Mint either here or in India to supply a coin of the kind required. Upon the first point it is important to bear in mind that there is nothing which tends more to increase a nation's influence abroad than its coinage becoming familiar to the people; and our prestige in China would therefore be beyond doubt raised in a very legitimate and also a very important way if a coin such as that suggested came into circulation and became as well known as the Mexican dollar. In regard to the second question, it would certainly seem likely to be advantageous to this country that improved facilities should be available for passing on, in a form in which it would obtain currency, the silver from time to time redundant in the market; and the step would in all probability tend, at least to some extent, to diminish the "silver difficulty," which has been so much felt of late. With respect to the last question, but by no means the least namely, the practicability of the measure proposed, we believe that this must mainly depend upon details of calculation as to whether it would pay the Mints (or at least not be a source of loss to them) to supply the coins required. The whole question is at the present time already under the consideration of the Government; and this point will doubtless ere long be decided. Should it appear that the step proposed is practicable in respect to the actual production of the coin, there can, we think, be no question as to its desirability upon general grounds of policy and finance.

THE Church and State question in Ceylon has been discussed in the House of Commons, and the motion for "disestablishment" rejected by 147 to 121 votes. The number in favour of some alteration in the existing state of affairs is significant as to the opinion entertained on the subject; and in face of this, it may be hoped the Government will take some steps on its own motion. The amount of £14,000 now paid annually in subsidies is certainly very large, and some reduction might probably be made with advantage.

THE amended Order in Council for the working of the Supreme Court of China and Japan has been somewhat retarded, owing to the great pressure on the Foreign-office officials in connection with the "Eastern Question." In another column will be found an Order in Council just passed by Her MAJESTY at Windsor, extending the powers given in Art. 25 of the China and Japan Order of 1865.

WE beg to call the attention of our readers to a Report from Mr. ARTHUR DAVENPORT, who accompanied the Hon. THOS. GROSVENOR in his Expedition to the Provinces of Yunnan and Burmah. It is one of the most able and

valuable reports ever written by a Consular officer. Nothing has transpired in reference to the Chefoo Convention or Mr. GROSVENOR'S report.

It is stated by the Berlin correspondent of *The Times* that Prince KITA SHIRA KAWA JOSHI-HISA, a relation of the Emperor of JAPAN, who has been studying at the Prussian War Academy for some years, has been summoned home to assume the chief command of the army.

WITH reference to the rumour of the probable retirement of Sir THOMAS SIDGREAVES, the Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements, we understand that there is no foundation for the suggestion. It is the intention of Sir THOMAS to resume his post at the expiration of his leave.

THE REV. S. BEAL, B.A., Chaplain of Devonport Dockyard, is about to be elected to the vacant office of Professor of Chinese Language and Literature in University College.

ORDER IN COUNCIL FOR CHINA AND JAPAN.

At the Court at Windsor, the 30th day of April, 1877. Present: The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas, by the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, Her Majesty the Queen was pleased, by, and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to make provision for the exercise of Her Majesty's power and jurisdiction over Her Majesty's subjects resident in or resorting to China and Japan. And whereas in China and Japan additional ports may be from time to time opened to foreign trade, and it is expedient to provide for the exercise at those ports of Her Majesty's power and jurisdiction before the establishment there of Commissioned Consular Officers. Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the powers in this behalf by the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts, 1843 to 1875, and by the Act of the Session of the sixth and seventh years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter eighty, "for the better government of Her Majesty's subjects resorting to China," or otherwise, in Her vested, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1. The provisions of Article 25 of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865, and all provisions of that Order consequent thereon or relative thereto, shall extend and apply to every person (not holding a Consular Commission from Her Majesty) from time to time appointed by Her Majesty's Minister in China or Japan to be Acting Consul, and to be resident at a port in China or Japan, which is for the time being open to foreign trade, and at which no Commissioned Consular Officer of Her Majesty is resident.

2. For the purposes and within the meaning of the said Order, every person so appointed as an Acting Consul shall be deemed a Consular Officer, and the district for which he is appointed to act shall be deemed a Consular District, and the Court held by him shall be deemed a Provincial Court.

3. Words in this Order have the same meaning as in the said Order.

JAVA.

The Consular Reports on Trade for 1875, which have just been issued, contain that from Mr. Consul Fraser on the trade of Java. Referring to the war with Atchin, he says that during the year the Dutch army continued slowly to advance, but since the fall of the Kraton, on 23rd January, 1874, although there had been several encounters, no important action had to be recorded, with the exception of the capture of a fortified church, or misgitt, called Longbattah, which had for some time obstructed the progress of the invading army, and was obstinately defended by the Atchinese. The policy of conciliation adopted at first by the general in command having failed to produce the desired friendly feelings on the part of the inhabitants of the villages immediately adjacent to the encampments had been replaced by a sterner mode of proceedings, by which all outbreaks and outrages are visited with severe punishment, thus compelling that part of the country within range of the guns to remain tranquil, and in some degree alleviating the hardships of the troops. This war had proved so much more protracted and expensive than was anticipated that it had in a measure retarded the progress of the colony, obliging the Government to practise a severe economy which renders it practically unable to expend money in developing the resources of the country, besides leading to its being threatened with the infliction of new taxes, income and furniture tax, which has raised a spirit of dissatisfaction.

Business throughout the year was even more unsatisfactory than in 1874. The failure of the rice crop coming after a short outturn in the previous year occasioned such a depression that prices of every staple gave way; this, combined with the high prices ruling at Manchester, rendered it a disastrous year for importers generally. The depression experienced at the close of 1874 extended over the earlier months of this year, and was further increased by the heavy rains retarding the paddy har-

vest, rendering it extremely difficult for the country dealers to dispose of their goods at paying rates. Shipments also being slightly above the average, and confidence in the dealers being shaken, through the several failures in the Chinese camp, further increased the difficulty experienced by importers in clearing their stocks, cotton goods in many cases during the last months of the year being sold even under the low quotations given. The impoverished state of the mass of the population holding out no prospect of an increased demand on the part of the consumers, rates maintained their downward tendency till the end of the year. Dutch staples participated in the general deterioration of trade.

No legislative measures of importance have been passed during the year, but the project for the imposition of the new taxes before referred to, the Bill for which has already been introduced into the Chambers in Holland, has raised much discussion here. The intelligence lately received of Mr. Mees having assumed the portfolio of Minister of the Colonies renders it very unlikely that the taxes referred to will be enforced, as it is believed that he is personally opposed to the measure. This country has also suffered from the depreciation of the silver currency, but apparently not so heavily as British India, the Java rupee being worth, on the average during the year, 1s. 7d., or a 1d. below its par value; had the demand for bills been more active, it is probable, however, it would not have maintained this rate. The internal condition of the colony has undergone no change since my last report, the native population remaining tranquil, although much distressed by the repeated failures of their rice crop. The country has been severely visited by the dreadful scourge, cholera, the virulence of its ravages having exceeded any former visitation for several years.

FLAG.	SHIPPING.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
American	31	18,843	28	17,552	...	...
Chinese	13	425	16	351	...	...
Swedish	10	5,978	10	5,686	...	...
Austrian	1	737	1	737	...	...
Russian	7	5,235	5	3,225	...	...
English	139	84,688	124	71,414	...	...
Danish	5	2,806	6	2,606	...	...
Siamese	13	2,934	9	1,861	...	...
Italian	3	2,713	1	1,390	...	...
Dutch	646	377,027	613	526,286	...	...
French	33	15,541	34	16,418	...	...
German	22	9,340	19	8,338	...	...
Norwegian	—	—	2	1,087	...	...

RAILWAYS AND TELEGRAPHS.

A project has been entertained by the Government to connect Batavia with Bandong, and Sourabaya with Passaroean and Malang, by lines of railway, and surveys of the proposed routes having taken place.

The existing railways connecting Batavia with Buitenzorg, and Samarang with the Worstenlanden, have worked satisfactorily, carrying merchandise and passengers at moderate rates. Their receipts have been as follows:—Samarang—total number of passengers 794,775, equal fl.475,506 15c.; merchandise and baggage 110,571 tons, equal fl.1,217,971 15c.; Batavia—total number of passengers 610,371, equal fl.282,337 4c.; merchandise and baggage 159,626 tons, equal fl.141,241 63c., to the beginning of the year 1875, during which year the traffic in passengers and merchandise has largely increased.

The lines connecting Java with the various ports of the world, China, Australia, Europe, and America have worked satisfactorily with a few interruptions, the most frequent and injurious to trade being the interruption of the line to Singapore. The charges are not excessive, and as a rule the messages are correctly delivered. Inland, the Government are gradually extending the system, bringing the chief produce districts into direct communication with the centres of trade. The receipts on the Government lines have increased during the year 1874-75 by fl.4,600. Trade in the island has been materially benefited by the facilities of communication, by telegraph and steam, now existing with the chief centres of commerce in the world, immediate advantage being taken of the fluctuations of the home and foreign markets.

STEAM NAVIGATION.

The Netherlands Indian Steam Navigation Company still monopolises the coastward and Sumatra traffic, as well as the trade with the several islands of the Archipelago; its fleet consists of sixteen vessels, measuring 14,433 tons. The rate of freight is moderate, and the boats of the company well and regularly worked. The direct steam communication between Java and Europe at the commencement of the year was in the hands of six companies, but the very unsatisfactory results from several voyages, owing to the low freight obtainable, tonnage being in abundance and produce comparatively scarce, caused the owners of the several vessels to withdraw them from this trade, one company, the Java line, incorporating itself with the old-established Netherlands Steamboat Company, while the Star Ball line boats have ceased running. The lines at present connecting Java with Europe are Netherlands Steamboat Company's vessels 12, tonnage 33,500; Rotterdam Lloyd's vessels 4, tonnage 10,600.

THE TRADE OF LABUAN.

In his explanatory remarks on the Blue-book of Labuan for 1875, which has now been issued, Acting-Governor Low states that the total imports into the Colony during the year were valued at £119,362; of these there came from Singapore £67,105, and from the coast of Borneo £52,257. The exports were in all £114,532, of which £63,229 went to Singapore, and the remainder to Borneo. The increase in the value of the imports in the year was £29,385, and that of the exports £15,228. The improvement in the trade is considered to be due to some extent to the liberal policy of Sir Henry Bulwer, in relieving commerce from some obstructions which had been injurious to it, and partly also to the introduction of a plentiful supply of copper coinage, which is replacing on the coast of Borneo the cumbersome forms of metallic currency formerly in use. The trade of the Colony and of Bruni was chiefly carried on by a steam-vessel, the establishment of which is due to the persistent efforts of the late Governor. It has turned out a profitable speculation and a great convenience in many ways, though the monopoly it gives to its proprietor is beginning to be felt as too oppressive, and measures are in contemplation which it is hoped will result in a removal of the grievance. Mr. Low is unable to report anything satisfactory of the coal mines, the year under review having presented nothing but a continuous succession of disasters. In regard to education, he states that the Labuan National Free School—another of the many benefits for which the Colony is indebted to Sir Henry Bulwer—was tolerably well attended during the year, the average number of scholars for the whole year being 21.91, against 13.5 in the previous year. The long-continued prevalence of cholera appears to have had a very prejudicial effect on trade; that in sugar—the most important staple of the Colony—had at one time increased considerably beyond any previous experience, but towards the close of the year it fell off from this cause, and continued depressed at the date of the report.

Literature, Science, &c.

The arrangements for the Caxton celebration have been one of the chief subjects of discussion in literary circles. It has been decided to hold this Loan Collection in the western galleries at South Kensington, but it is objected that this will have the effect of excluding many apprentices and workmen from visiting it. The Archbishop of Canterbury will contribute some valuable treasures from the library in Lambeth Palace. The first book ever produced in England was printed by William Caxton, in the Almonry at Westminster, in the year 1477, and was entitled "The Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers." This pioneer of English literature is necessarily a book which has the greatest interest for all Englishmen who to-day enjoy the blessings which have come down to them from the printing press during the last four centuries. A copy of the original is extremely rare and valuable, fetching when sold many hundreds of pounds. It is a small folio volume very beautifully printed on ash-grey paper, with red initial letters, and is remarkable for its evenness of colour and clearness of type. There is a fine copy of the "Dictes" in the British Museum, and it is understood that Mr. Elliot Stock is engaged in producing a facsimile of it, by the permission of the trustees of that institution, which will put this, the earliest work of the English printing press, before the readers of the present day. A new novel, entitled "Mrs. Arthur," by Mrs. Oliphant, will be published this month by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett. Messrs. Macmillan have just issued a work entitled "New Commentaries on the Laws of England," by Jas. Paterson, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. It is intended to give the information formerly looked for in Blackstone in a modernised and practical shape. Dean Stanley contributes a very important article entitled, "The Hopes of Theology," to *Macmillan's Magazine* for this month. Amongst the curiosities of literature there is one advertised which should take the first rank, the *Journal des Aveugles*, to be published at Geneva. Not only is it for the blind, but the editor, composers, pressmen, and others in the office are blind. This, it is presumed, includes the publishers. The library of the late Bishop Thirlwall has been disposed of by public auction; the sale extended over six days. The volumes numbered about ten thousand, and they realised upwards of £1,200. It was curious that of all these books only one contained the bishop's autograph.

The *Friend of China* (organ of the Anti-Opium Society) for this month states that it has received a Chinese work against the use of opium, which extends to the length of four volumes of printed matter, which must have cost a considerable amount of money. The fact is considered by itself to indicate that the Chinese Anti-Opiumists in number, zeal, and resources are not contemptible. Of these volumes the first two are entitled "Miscellaneous Publications of the Canton Association for the Promotion of Abstinence," and the remaining two, "Selected Discourses upon the Suppression of Opium-smoking by China and Foreign Countries combined." These selected discourses are, it is stated, a few of the thousand essays which have been written in response to the offer of prizes by the Canton Anti-Opium Societies.

Mr. J. Thomson (formerly of China) is continuing his *Street Life in London*, published by Sampson Low and Co. The subjects of the May number are cane chair menders, dealers in fancy ware, and the "Temperance Sweep."

The *Japan Hong List and Directory* for 1877, for which Mr. F. Algar, 8, Clement's-lane, is agent, gives the usual carefully compiled list of resident firms, clubs, public institutions, &c., in Yokohama, Tokio, Hiogo, Osaka, &c.

Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. have in the press a second edition of M. Gaston Tissandier's "History and Handbook of Photography," edited by J. Thomson, F.R.G.S. This edition will be revised by the editor, and a new chapter, giving a more detailed account of the part belonging to Englishmen in the discoveries and improvements in Photography, will be added.

The *Academy* says:—We hear that Mr. Frank Dillon has returned from Japan with a number of sketches and other works in water-colour, of new and rare interest. Mr. Dillon, who has always been a good deal given to distant travel, and who, among English artists, may be said to have been almost the first to discover the resources of Egypt for artistic treatment, has now, it appears, been not less fortunate in his further explorations. We hear that it is proposed to exhibit this collection of the landscape views of Japan from Mr. Dillon's pencil, in the rooms of an eminent West-end picture-dealer, where both subject and treatment will, even in the midst of a busy season, secure interest.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

At the Asiatic Society on April 16, Sir E. Colebrooke, Bart., President, in the chair, Mr. J. W. Redhouse read a paper, in which he suggested the identity of the "zodiacal light" with the phenomenon called the "Wolf's Tail" and the "False Dawn" in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish; which are described by Orientals as being seen in the eastern sky, in the shape of a tall, slender pillar of faint light, a short time before the appearance of the "true dawn" or daybreak.

At the Society of Antiquaries on April 19, F. Ouvry, Esq., President in the chair, Mr. J. Malcolm exhibited a bronze socket celt with loop, found on his estates in the parish of North Knapdale, Argyllshire. Mr. A. W. Franks exhibited two bronze objects recently dredged up in the Thames—a socket celt, quadrangular in section, found last month near Kingston-on-Thames, and a bronze spear-head, with a deep groove on each side of it, found at Thames Ditton, Surrey, in the present month. Mr. F. Peake exhibited a drawing of a mosaic pavement recently uncovered at Medburn, Leicestershire.

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society of Literature, on April 25, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the year:—President, H.R.H. the Prince Leopold; Vice-Presidents, the Duke of Devonshire, the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, Major-General Sir H. C. Rawlinson, H. Fox Talbot, Sir P. de Colquhoun, Sir C. Nicholson, Bart., Lieut.-General Sir C. Dickson, the Rev. C. Babington, C. Clark (Treasurer), and C. M. Ingleby; Council, W. A. T. Amhurst, W. de Gray Birch (Hon. Librarian), J. W. Bone, E. W. Brabrook, C. E. E. Carmichael, Rev. Dr. Dicksee, C. Goolden (Foreign Secretary), T. B. Green, E. G. Highton, W. Knighton, C. H. Long, G. W. Moon, J. A. Rose, H. T. Steward, W. S. W. Vaux (Secretary), H. W. Willoughby.

The Council of the Royal Society have made their selection of fifteen from among the fifty-seven aspirants for the distinction F.R.S., who have entered their names during the present session.

The Council of the Royal Microscopical Society have resolved to institute a lecture in memory of the late Professor John Quekett, to be delivered from time to time by eminent microscopists, to whom will be presented the Quekett Medal provided out of the Medal Fund collected some years since. The first of these lectures was delivered on May 2, by Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., the subject being "On some Points in the Anatomy of Ants."

Naval and Military.

The Mediterranean Squadron, under the command of Vice-Admiral Hornby, consisting of the ironclads *Alexandra*, *Monarch*, *Swiftsure*, *Devastation*, and *Hotspur*, arrived at Corfu on the 1st inst., where, we understand, they will remain until the 6th, and on being reinforced by the *Raleigh*, now at Salonica, will proceed eastward to the Piræus to await orders. The *Rupert*, now undergoing repairs at Malta, will probably soon join the squadron, and the *Salamis*, paddle despatch vessel, tender to the Channel Squadron, has received orders to leave to-day for the Mediterranean as an additional despatch vessel at the disposal of the Admiral Commander-in-Chief of the squadron. The dockyard authorities at Portsmouth have received instructions to use all possible expedition in refitting and completing the *Minotaur*, *Hercules*, *Triumph*, *Active*, and *Inconstant* for sea. The *Thunderer*, double turret-ship, and the *Bowdich*, unarmoured corvette, are ready for the pendant, and could be despatched to sea at once. Orders have been received both at Portsmouth and Devonport for the dockyard officials to report the length of time which would be required to prepare for sea the various ships in the several divisions of the steam reserve, and the new vessels which are completing their fittings at those ports. They are to press forward with all possible despatch the necessary works upon both commissioned and non-commissioned vessels in hand, and to direct their sole attention to this matter, leaving all works

of a secondary nature, such as carving, embellishing, and fitting up of officers' cabins for future completion.

Mr. John Thomson, the Senior Paymaster in Chief of the Royal Navy, died a few days since. This veteran officer was appointed to the *Redpole*, as paymaster and purser, in 1812, in which ship he served until 1816. He afterwards served in the *Brazils* and *South America*, in the *Blossom*, 26, from 1819 till 1824; in the *Lightning*, 18, also in *South America*, from 1829 till 1831; in the *Eagle*, on the North American and West Indian station, from 1844 until September, 1846, and from the latter date until paid off, in 1849, in the *Vernon*, flagship in the East Indies. He was appointed to the *Excellent*, gunnery ship at Portsmouth, in 1852, from which ship he was promoted to paymaster-in-chief 1856. He obtained the Greenwich Hospital pension March 29, 1866. In the summer of 1848, while on duty in Hong Kong harbour, he sustained a severe sunstroke, which rendered him insensible for twenty-eight hours, and from which he only recovered with the total loss of sight of the right eye.

The Admiralty authorities have sent orders to the Clyde for the speedy completion of all the war vessels at present in construction. These are the *Nelson* and the *Northampton*, launched in November last, ironclad corvettes, of 7,323 tons, and are to be armed with four 18-ton, eight 12-ton, and six torpedo guns. Messrs. John Elder and Co. have six steel corvettes on the stocks, each intended for store-carrying purposes; their several armaments will consist of fourteen guns. Messrs. J. and G. Thomson, Dalmuir, are also building two gunboats, both of which are in a forward state. Additional hands have been engaged on all these vessels, and the men are working two and three hours extra every day in order to expedite operations.

Rear-Admiral John Corbett, C.B., the newly-appointed Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies, left Southampton, per P. and O. steamer *Cathay*, on the 26th ult. for Bombay, to assume his command. The Admiral was accompanied by his secretary, Mr. W. Perry, paymaster R.N., and by Lieutenant Thomas Holmes, his flag-lieutenant. Capt. Bowden-Smith, flag captain, will follow the Admiral a few weeks hence.

Letters have been received from Rear-Admiral Lambert, in command of the Detached Squadron. The squadron left Ascension on the 1st of April, and reached St. Vincent on the 15th. The squadron would leave on the 19th of April for Devonport, and is due about the 17th inst.

Holt's steamer *Patroclus* arrived at Portsmouth on the 28th ult. from Hong Kong, and landed Major Bridger (Royal Artillery), Mrs. Bridger, and child, Deputy-Commissionary Arder, Assistant-Commissionary W. Gamnell, Deputy Paymaster C. B. Griffiths and Mrs. Griffiths, 34 men 2nd Brigade Royal Artillery, 22 invalids of the Royal Artillery and 28th Regiment.

Official advices received at the Admiralty from the China Station state that Vice-Admiral Ryder would leave Hong Kong, in the *Andaciosa*, with the *Vigilant*, for Nagasaki, on March 15. The *Charvillat*, *Moderate*, *Sylvia*, *Nassau*, and *Hart* are ordered to be at Hong Kong by May 6, to meet the *Tamar* with their fresh crews on board.

The Distinguished Service Reward left vacant by the appointment of Lieutenant-General C. A. Edwards, C.B., to a regimental Colonelcy, has been given to Major-General W. L. Ingall, C.B. General Ingall served in the *Sutlej* campaign of 1845-46 and also in the Crimea.

Under instructions from the Treasury, the rate at which the dollar is to be paid to the Army, Navy, and Consular Service in China, from April 1, 1877, for six months, has been fixed at 3s. 9d.

On the 30th ult. the first of two gunboats, of 400 tons, which are being built by Messrs. Thomson, Clydebank, for the Government, was launched. It is named the *Firebrand*.

GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAMBURG, MAY 1.

The long-expected Declaration of War between Russia and the Porte met here with full satisfaction, everyone being of opinion that the long and destructive slackness in all branches of business now would be at an end. The business at the Exchange-hall during the first days after the event, indeed, was very lively, but this was not of long duration, and already at the end of last week a reaction took place, which is the more complainable, as it plainly proves that the influence hitherto attributed to the Oriental disturbances upon business in general appears to have been very much overrated, and that the reasons for the rapidly-increasing pauperism and worklessness is to be sought elsewhere. The short speech made by Count Moltke in Parliament on April 24, in which the great tactician asserted the necessity of granting the means for the creation of 105 new captain-charges for the army, did not send to quiet the minds of the tradesmen, the more so as the Count especially asserted that he also wished a long peace, but that such a one was not to be hoped for at such a time as the present, and that perhaps the time was not far when every Government would have to exert all its power to secure its existence. This expression, made by such a capacity as the Field-Marshal, certainly was regarded as an oracle, and although afterwards modified and reduced upon its real meaning by Dr. Leaker, could not fail to raise deep reflections in the minds of all honest people.

The circumstances up the Baltic, in regard to shipping, at present are still very unpromising. The principal ports of Russia, such as Riga, Revel, Cronstadt, &c., are still blocked by barriers of ice, and the re-opening of shipping will still last some time. And yet the re-opening this spring is far more anxiously waited for as at other times; there seems to be a feeling prevalent in the Russian Baltic provinces that ere long their ports very likely might be blockaded, not by ice but by ironclads, and exporters, therefore, will exert all possible means to get as much of their staples shipped as possible, as soon as the ports are again accessible. Freight, therefore, undoubtedly will be very good, from these directions, and even at Koenigsberg (Prussia) rates have considerably bettered since the declaration of war.

A very interesting document was published on Saturday last, viz., the report of the Norddeutsche Lloyd at Bremen. According to it a

dividend cannot be paid for the past year, as the net profits in 1876, to the amount of m. 1,869,042, have found application for rebates and deductions of the property of the establishment. The most remarkable point in the report is the circumstance that the newly-established line between Bremen and South American ports has not worked with a profit. You will remember that this new line has only been established since the beginning of 1876 to rivalries with our Hamburg South American Steamship Company, and if the directors of the Lloyd are hoping for the running year a better result the perhaps more favourable prospects which are the base of such a hope will also be a benefit for our Hamburg establishment. The trading between Bremen and London shows an improvement from m. 999,293 in 1875 to m. 1,062,103 in 1876; the trading between Bremen and Hull has decreased from m. 687,853 in 1875 to 572,379 in 1876.

I referred in my last to a motion brought in by Mr. Loewe, member of the Reichstag, according to which an excise of m. 0.75 per cwt. should be levied by rather all imported iron and iron-wares with the exception of machinery. In addition to this, the Imperial Government has brought in a similar motion, proposing a duty of the same extent (m. 0.75) from iron and articles made thereof, as compensation of the French *acquit à caution*. The debates in the Reichstag concerning these motions have lasted three days, and on Friday last has been passed a resolution with 211 votes against 111, that is with a majority of 100 votes, according to which the abolition of iron duties in Germany remains in permanence. This resolution has had an encouraging effect for all free-traders, and the more as there is shown by it as all future protective inclinations of our leading government, people are not probable to find the necessary support by the present Reichstag, and also rather not by a future one, as the elements of this assembling will at all times be the same.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company at Copenhagen has held its annual meeting, Mr. Tietgen chairman. It appears that the company during the past year has done well, as the income increased on both lines; the European line had an increase of f. 2,296,646, for 634,985 telegrams (against, respectively, f. 2,256,675 and 691,790 telegrams in 1875); and the Asiatic line had a total of fully f. 2,869,700 for 110,007 telegrams (against, respectively, f. 1,899,230 and 86,063 telegrams). The Asiatic line profited much by the long interruption of the English lines, whereas the European one suffered under the general slackness of business. The plan adopted on the Asiatic line, to admit the telegraphing of single words, instead of only allowing despatches of twenty words each, has proved successful; at present every word pays f. 10, against f. 150 formerly paid for a telegram up to twenty words. The station in France will be removed from Calais to Paris. The construction of the land line in China has been interrupted, but a special institute of the company is now instructing young Chinese in the science of telegraphing, and the works in China will soon be taken up again. The first four months of the present year have yielded an income sufficient to pay the expenses for the whole year, and a super-dividend of five crowns (about six shillings) is to be distributed; 340,565 crowns are transferred upon 1877. One of the Asiatic cables of the company has been sequestered by the Russian Government, and the chairman was of opinion that the company will benefit by the Russian-Turkish War.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

The declaration of war between Russia and Turkey has had the anticipated effect on our Produce Markets. Caution prevails, and the tendency is a dull one. Money remains abundant.

RICE.—Inferior qualities remain in good demand, notwithstanding the about m. 0.25 higher quotations, and holders are more or less reluctant. Medium and fine lots are equally sought for. Of raw quality each 25,000 bags arrived per steamers *Egeria* and *Atlanta*, from Rangoon, but these parcels have already been disposed of before arrival.

TRA is quiet, and without transactions of importance. COTTON.—Buyers are holding aloof, and values are in favour of them. Only several parcels of American provenience changed owners.

SPICES.—Nutmegs, prime quality, are quoted m. 5.60 to 6.20; quotation for prime quality of Mace m. 4.70 to 4.90 per kilo. Ginger quiet; Bengal m. 25½ to 26; Ceylon m. 61 to 81. Cloves in good demand; m. 141 to 142 per 50 kilo. Pepper dull; Singapore m. 38 to 38½; Penang m. 36 to 36½; White m. 68 to 80 per 50 kilo. Exchange, London, 3 months, m. 20.37 to 20.31 per £.

SHIPPING.

During the first part of the past fortnight the arrivals and departures fell rather short, in consideration of the present time of the year, but during the last week have taken up again. Of arrivals from the Far East are only to be noted the two steamers *Atlanta* and *Egeria*, from Rangoon, with rice, &c. (both belonging to the Deutsche Dampfschiff-Rhederei). Of departures we can name the *Vesta*, *Schoemer*, for Manila; *Hermann*, *Huack*, for Tientsin; and *Iuo*, *Mahr*, for Bangkok. On the berth are—*Bellona* (str.), to leave to-day, and *Atlanta* (str.), to leave on the 10th; *Anna*, *Moennich*, for Singapore; *Gerhardine*, *Hansen*, for Singapore and Penang; *Woodville*, *Nelson*, for Hong Kong; *Meteor*, *Dinkelberg*, and *Marco Polo*, *Jager*, both for same destination; *Adolph*, *Hupfer*, for Shanghai; and *Johan* *Wiegborst*, *Herjenga*, for Japan.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

Business was in suspense during the beginning of last week, pending the declaration of war between Russia and Turkey; afterwards a great buoyancy took place, which, during the last days, was followed by a dullness on our Stock Exchange. Below I give a comparative extract of the quotations of leading papers:—

	April 24.		April 30.	
	Money.	Account.	Money.	Account.
Italian Rent	64	63½	63½	63½
Russian Loan (6th Stieglitz) ..	76	75½	75½	75½
Russian-English Loan of 1862 ..	70	69½	69½	70
Spanish Interior	8½	—	—	8½
Exterior, '67-'69-'70	10½	—	—	10½
Turkish of 1865	3½	3½	—	—
Austrian Credit	104	104½	107	107½

HOLLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, MAY 2.

The Members of the Second Chamber are at present occupying themselves with local affairs of little or no political interest. They are on the eve of again leaving the Hague, not to meet before the closing of the Session. There is now no chance of dealing with the Lower-Class Instruction Bill before the elections take place. The Liberal party seems to be quite content, or at least resigned to this *volle face* of the Minister, who was in a hurry to lay the said Bill before the members, but who since became markedly slow. I need not add that the anti-revolutionary party is very angry at this behaviour of Mr. Heemskerk. Not only this Instruction Bill will belong to the murdered innocents, but most probably also that about the reorganisation of the Military Academy, because the Commission of the Section Reporters was of opinion that another deliberation with the Minister of War was necessary. The Second Chamber appointed Messrs. De Jong, Wybenga, Schepel, Begram and De Jonge as members for the commission to make inquiries about the pulmonary disease which prevails amongst our cattle stock. In the course of last week the M.P.s carried the Bill to increase the pensions of the officers by 52 against 7 votes. This proposal stipulates that a lieutenant-general will be pensioned with f.3,000; a major-general f.2,700; a colonel with f.2,100; a lieutenant-colonel with f.1,500; a major f.1,600; a captain f.1,400; a first lieutenant f.900; a second lieutenant f.800. A good deal was said on behalf of the wish to make the law retrospective, in order that the officers serving in our East Indian Army might be influenced by it, but though most reasonable motives were advanced, the amendment was rejected with 36 against 23 votes.

In several districts candidates are brought forward for the general elections, which must take place in the month of June next. I would be inclined to think that amongst the new ones Mr. G. J. Grathius has some chance.

For some days the police have been on the track of a plot of Germans, who in different places have issued false *Muntbiljetten* of f.10. These biljets all bear the date of Nov. 1, 1871. The police caught three of these distributors, upon whom they found about 400 pieces. It is indeed much to be feared that they are already largely spread, so that it is every one's duty to be most cautious.

Het Vaderland of to day says that also false bank notes are in circulation. Yesterday some Germans were taken when endeavouring to change a billet of f.200.

H.M. has acknowledged and approved the nomination of Mr. B. Garnier as Consul of France at Batavia.

The hundredth birthday of the "School for Scandal," by Sheridan, will be celebrated in the Hague by a representation of this beautiful play.

Within a few days an important book will be published about Atjeh, by Mr. Gualt Koff, at Leyden. Its author is Mr. J. A. Kruyt, naval officer of administration, who was stationed two years in that part of the world.

Yesterday the new tariff for the postal communication between our country and our colonies in East and West came into operation. It states that a single letter of 15 gram. will cost, prepaid, 25c., and when not prepaid 40c.; post cards can be forwarded for 12½c.; printed works, samples, &c., are to be prepaid with 7½c. for every 50 gram. of a part of it. When the letters are sent by Dutch steamers the single ones of 15 gram. are to be prepaid with 20c.; whilst for printed works 5c. are to be paid for every 50 gram.

I regret that I have to report the death of Jhr. Dr. F. A. Hartzen, well known in Java. He died at Cannes (Alpes Maritimes). Since his marriage with an English lady he had become a member of the Roman Catholic Church. It is much deplored that Mr. Dr. A. de Jager, an eminent philologist, died at Rotterdam, at the age of seventy-one years. I hear that the Minister of the Department of Justice is seriously ill.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

The transactions in our market for Colonial Produce have been most satisfactory. Considerable business has been done in some articles, and prices, as a rule, have risen. The tone of the market at the close is very good.

COFFEE.—The market closes firm, and for several numbers out of the last Company's sale a good demand prevails. The transactions are not, however, of much importance, because holders decline to operate at the current quotations. Several small parcels, however, changed hands. The unsold stock of the Dutch Trading Company is 349,960 bales.

TEA.—Nothing to report. On May 16 will be sold at Rotterdam 64¼/4, 4,236/12 chests Congou, 1,719/12 chests Soucheong, and 74¼ chests Pecko.

RAW SUGAR has made a further advance in price, so that for some numbers the January value is obtainable.

TOBACCO has met with a good demand. Several small lots have been sold, and have realised very high prices. The stock in the first hands includes 11,897 ba. Java, 8,471 ba. Sumatra, and 3,000 bags East India.

COTTON.—The market is very dull.

SPICES of every kind are very firm, but at the same time quiet.

RICE (uncleaned) has met with a good demand, and a good business is going on. Our home stock is, however, very small. Java Rice (cleaned) has also met with a good demand.

RATTANS.—140 pieces ex Jonge Cornelis have been sold.

GUM DAMAR.—About 200 chests ex Holland have changed hands.

INDIGO.—The market is very quiet. The trade is inspecting the parcels which will be offered for sale on the 8th of May.

TIN remains unaltered; Banca is quoted nominally at f.42½, and Billiton at f.41¼.

HIDES.—Some lots have changed hands at advancing prices.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.—April 25, at Ymuiden, from Batavia, William Melhuish;

at Nieuwe Diep, from Samarang, Veritas; 26, at Ymuiden, from Pas-sarjeang, Aurora; 28, at Texel, from Rangoon, Madeline.

DEPARTURES.—April 29, from Ymuiden, for Sourabaya, Cornelia; May 1, from Ymuiden, for Samarang, Vryheid.

THE FAMINE IN NORTHERN CHINA.

(THE TIMES.)

The famine which rages in the North of China is a disaster of woful magnitude. It extends over a very wide region of the Empire, it is carrying off the population daily by thousands, and there is no near hope that its ravages will soon be over. Through the north and east of the country, from the near neighbourhood of the Imperial city and from the shores of the Yellow Sea, beyond the line of the great wall which shuts off China from the Western world outside, the terrible visitation extends. The Government is making the semblance of an effort to relieve the widespread misery; but the means it employs are wholly inadequate. An expression of verbal sympathy, a grant of money which allows about a farthing a day for the relief of each case of distress, and some well-meant but mistaken edicts, which have had the effect simply of making matters worse than before, are the measure of the assistance which the Chinese rulers can bestow. Meanwhile, there is no remedy to be found, except in the readiness of the people to do anything, and to submit to anything that will furnish them with the bare means of preserving life, and in the willing but insufficient relief fund which is subscribed among the foreigners resident in China, and distributed by the Protestant missionaries in the North. The cause of the famine is the same as of that from which India is now suffering. The crops of last summer were, we are told, almost entirely destroyed by drought, and the peasantry have now come to an end of their slender reserves of grain, and have nothing left on which they can fall back for support. China is a country in which at the best of times the population presses very closely upon the means of subsistence. There are no waste stores anywhere. Everything is already turned to account, and when the necessity comes there is little room for any further saving or reduction. Land and water are alike taxed to the uttermost to furnish food and dwelling-space for the teeming multitudes which cover them. The Chinese are hard workers, contented with slender fare, and able to put up comfortably with a general scale of living which would be simply intolerable to Englishmen. These qualities and habits, which turn to their advantage abroad when they are brought into competition with other races, are a source of danger to them at home. The Chinese can undersell the Irish immigrant and the native "white trash" in the distant labour market of California. They cannot be equally sure that they will obtain the poor pittance with which they will be satisfied in China. In ordinary seasons they can pull through well enough, and can thrive and think themselves well off on the slender material supplies with which they have learnt to be content. But when the pinch comes, as come it must sometimes, when the parched earth will no longer yield its accustomed increase, or when the store of food for any reason begins to fail, the suffering is speedy and severe. It is a question then, not of the surrender of luxuries which can at any rate be spared, but of the want of bare necessities which it is impossible to forego and to live. To the great Eastern hive, thickly swarming with its uncounted millions of inhabitants, the chance of famine is never far distant, and the worst reality of famine arrives very easily. It is present among them now, and it is fearful to think of the intense and widespread misery which it will bring with it before it has run its course. The numbers of the dead, it is clear, must be already reckoned by millions, but we can hazard no conjecture as to the total which will have been reached before the return of summer. It is natural to contrast the present Indian Famine and the successful measures which have been adopted by the Indian Government for relieving it, with the far more fatal Chinese Famine and the utter inadequacy of the assistance from the Chinese Government or from any other quarter. The reality is almost ridiculous when we set it aside by side with the high-sounding pretensions in which the Chinese Government persistently indulges, and the vast promises which are separated from the performance by so immeasurable a gulf. The Imperial Order runs that not a single Chinese subject is to be left in a state of destitution. We have already seen sufficiently the degree of effect which has been given to this invitation to a Harnicide feast. The task, however, which the Government has thus noisily assumed and declined to execute must be admitted to be no easy one. The combined resources of a large Empire would, no doubt, furnish the means of supporting one of the Provinces, but the outlay would be enormous, and we doubt, moreover, whether it would be willingly contributed by the rest. An exposure to occasional famine seems, indeed, to be the too certain fate of all but highly civilised communities. A prolonged winter and the failure of fresh supplies of food from hunting or fishing tell at once and with fatal force upon a tribe of savages. They are as helpless against it as the birds or beasts which suffer with them. The Chinese, of course, are far above this state. They are not savages, but neither are they highly civilised. They have not the machinery to hand which would make their whole strength available at each point, and, so to say, press the past into the service of the present, nor have they the will to use it if they had got it. Their condition thus far is not unlike that of Europe in the early middle ages, with its constantly recurring periods of famine, each suffered to run its course and work out at length its own terrible cure. We are glad to think that the foreigners who have had such difficulties in forcing their way into the country have seized the occasion to prove the kind of benefits which may be expected from their presence. It is but little that Mr. Richard and his fellow labourers can accomplish, but we learn with pleasure that it is by men of our own race and creed that the benevolent work has been taken in hand most heartily.

Mr. Joseph Tritton, treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society, referring to the above article, forwards extracts from letters received by the last mail from Mr. Richard, of Chefoo, addressed to the secretaries.

of the society, and informs us that a telegram has been sent to Mr. Richard authorising him to draw £250 towards immediate relief. Mr. Triton adds that he shall be glad to receive contributions and forward them, without delay, to the society's missionaries on the spot. Mr. Richard writes from Chingchow, under date March 1:—"The famine is still very severe. News has got abroad that I receive children, and yesterday some came thirty miles in order to have their children taken charge of for two or three months. The funds at my disposal, I am sorry to say, only enable me to receive about 200 children as yet. People of all ages die of actual starvation by thousands. This is no exaggeration. The famine extends over a district which includes at least 5,000 villages, and in these, taken together, I am certainly within the mark in saying that 500 die daily, perhaps 1,000 may be within it. A few days ago I traversed the worst part. It is most heartrending. Can anything be done immediately at home? Friends in Chefoo have sent me \$500. Shanghai and other places I have not heard from yet. The first steamer of the Spring is expected north to-day; perhaps \$1,000 more will be made up. Funds will save lives on to the end of May. It will be only charity after that. If you can do anything, telegraph." Under date March 5 Mr. Richard says:—"I draw another £50 to-day, making in all £250. If I die before the year is out, let my property here make up the deficiency, so long as I have anything to mortgage. I cannot abide the sight of people dying about me without giving them relief. Thousands upon thousands have perished already. Houses are pulled down in every village to sell the timber and thatch in order to get food. Those who can get husks and dry leaves and hardy used for fuel are considered well off. Most of the poor young girls have been sold; old men, middle aged, young men, and children die daily of sheer starvation, and others freeze. The dead cannot get a burial; they are too many, and none can afford the expense; so they are cast daily into large pits. Terrible!" Mr. Jones, missionary at Chefoo, writes under date March 12:—"The Chinese merchants have given \$200 for the famine fund—a large thing for them, but it must open their eyes to see the 'hated foreigners' taking the active and chief part in the relief. One of the native merchants here remarked the same thing to me to-day. It is literally fearful to see men half naked, in trousers, a clouded sky, a north-west wind and the thermometer in the twenties, no cap, no shirt, something called a coat round them, and in the men worn down with months of gruel food."

Messrs. John Bourne and Co. write from 66, Mark-lane that they are sending a good deal of machinery to Shantung, the province in China desolated by the famine, and are willing to take charge of subscriptions from this country to relieve the distress.

THE CHINESE ENVOYS.

During the past week the Envoys have paid a visit to one of our great charitable institutions, namely, the Orphan Working School, Haverstock-hill, on the occasion of a lecture by Mr. G. S. Measom, a member of the committee, on behalf of the children's summer treat fund, at which Sir Charles Reed, chairman of the London School Board, presided. They were conducted through the various rooms, dormitories, &c., of this excellent institution, which with its junior department at Hornsey-rise (the Alexandra Orphanage) provides a home and education for 540 boys and girls. They expressed themselves greatly pleased with what they saw. They remained throughout the lecture, which was on the subject of Mr. Measom's experiences in Rome in 1875, illustrated by dissolving views. At the lecture, which was largely attended, Sir Charles Reed spoke very highly of the education given in the school, and expressed deep interest in the institution. Votes of thanks were cordially awarded to the lecturer and to the chairman.

CHINESE COOLIES IN PERU.

The *Panama Star* and *Herald* states that the Oliphant contract for introducing free Chinese labour has been partially remodelled. The principal conditions are that the subsidy be paid in silver or its equivalent, or in nitrate at current market price in the port of embarkation, Messrs. Oliphant and Co. in five years to make twenty-eight round trips by steam from Hong Kong or another Chinese port, bringing to Callao by each steamer at least 500 free labourers, or at the most 1,000 labourers, to pay a stipulated price for the passage. The Peruvian Government to engage to give the steamers a return freight of guano. The Peruvian Government also undertakes to watch over the welfare of the labourers, and to guarantee them good treatment. Wages to be arranged between employers and labourers. The Peruvian Government has not yet given its sanction to the scheme.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.

The anniversary breakfast in connection with the Wesleyan Missionary Society took place at the Cannon-street Terminus Hotel on the 28th ult., when there was a very large attendance of the friends and supporters of the society. After breakfast the usual meeting in connection with it followed, presided over by Mr. J. Lindsey, of Belfast, who in opening the proceedings congratulated the members on the successful result of the past year, and urged them to redoubled efforts in order to meet the constantly increasing demands on the society. The Rev. G. T. Perks, one of the secretaries, stated that the event of the year would be accomplished when the first Wesleyan Methodist chapel would be opened in the city of Rome. The Rev. J. B. Anderson, of Halifax, the Rev. W. H. Dallinger, of Liverpool, the Rev. W. Scarborough, of Hankow, the Rev. W. Burgess, from Madras, and the Rev. J. C. Barratt, from Canstatt, also addressed the meeting. The annual meeting of the Society was held on the 30th ult., at Exeter Hall. The Chairman (Mr. S. D. Waddy, Q.C., M.P.), spoke of the growth of Methodist missionary work during the past two generations since 1818, and said that from eighty-two circuits and 107 missionaries the

numbers had grown to 651 and 797 respectively. The Rev. A. M'Aulay (the President of the Wesleyan Conference) moved the adoption of the report, which stated that there were 675 circuits occupied by the society, which possessed 6,262 chapels and other preaching places, employed 829 ministers and missionaries, 5,341 other paid and 23,002 unpaid agents, and there were 139,917 Church members, 18,647 on trial for membership, and 148,770 scholars. The total amount of home receipts for the year was £122,630 17s. 11d., and the foreign receipts had reached £22,600 4s. 2d. The payments amounted to a total of £164,195 5s. 5d. Referring to the work of the society in Italy, the report recorded that the first Methodist chapel in Rome was dedicated to Almighty God. Among the contributors to the work of the society was the King of Holland, who had granted £283 8s. 8d. towards the St. Eustatius and St. Martin's Missions, in the West Indies, in support of which the French Government had also granted £93 14s. During the year missionaries had been sent out to Barcelona, Ceylon, Calcutta, China, Africa, the West Indies, Sydney, Melbourne, and New Zealand. The Secretary stated that, as the expenses of the society were in excess of the receipts, its friends must show an increased liberality, or else the work of the society must be retrenched. A number of other speakers followed, and the report was adopted. This report stated that in China there were 11 missionaries, with about 30 subordinate agents, who have charge of 301 members and 419 scholars. They have outlived opposition, and the work is being vigorously prosecuted. The hope is expressed that before long some plan may be matured for the pushing of missionary operations inland, even beyond the treaty ports and among the masses of the Chinese people.

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS.

The annual meeting of the Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of England has been held at Exeter Hall, under the presidency of Mr. J. C. Stevenson, M.P. According to the report, there were 49 native evangelists and 27 students to the ministry, the districts occupied by the missionaries being Amoy, Swatow, and Formosa. The income of the society was £9,402, while the expenditure amounted to £9,022. The Chairman in opening the proceedings, trusted the result of the gathering would deepen in all of them the sense of the importance of the great and honourable work in which their Church was engaged. They were able to do their missionary labours by means of their own church organisation, which was a great advantage, because all its members also belonged to the missionary society. They now looked with confidence to the future, as regarded the large field of heathenism that had not yet been reached in China. Their mission was not only to the heathen, but also to the Jews. The Rev. Theodore Meyer, missionary to the Jews, then gave a detailed account of his labours. Dr. Donald Fraser said that events were now occurring in the East in which a marvellous and an ancient people, the Jews, who were dwelling among them, would be greatly interested. There were many signs of spiritual coldness and doubt among the Jews, but in them there was a kindling desire for the restoration of their national existence, and of the possession of that land which was given to their fathers. One of England's greatest writers had surprised most of her admirers by giving prominence to this in "Daniel Deronda." The events that were now transpiring in the East could not but have the effect of altering the political condition of those regions. The Rev. Hugh Ritchie, a missionary from Formosa, stated there were 12,000 members of the Church on the main land at China, and a similar number at Formosa. The Rev. Daniel M'Ewen, D.D., referred with pleasure to the success of their mission in China, greatly brought about, he said, by the labours of earnest and thoughtful missionaries. It was an incalculable blessing, because it opened up to them a spiritual life, and showed that they had a bond of communion between them. The field itself was one of great attraction, and enlisted their sympathy, because the Chinese Empire had such an immense territory, comprising one-ninth of the land area of the globe, and with its hundreds of millions of people, with its ancient civilisation, with its singular history, it might in the future exercise a powerful influence over the destinies of the world.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AT THE GAIETY THEATRE.—The Japanese Ambassador, accompanied by his wife and a large party, attended the Gaiety Theatre on the 4th inst., and at the conclusion of "Artful Cards" his Excellency complimented Mr. Toole upon his performance.

Monetary and Commercial.

The general state of trade in the country has, on the whole, been better than might have been anticipated, in view of the two potent causes which have combined to bring about depression during the past week, namely, the outbreak of war and the continuance so late into the year of cold weather. In the iron districts, and especially at Leeds, considerable depression has been felt; but by last accounts, though business was still in a very inanimate condition, matters were looking a little better, and there was somewhat more demand for shipment, the feeling being that if the war be confined to the present combatants trade was not likely to be placed in a worse position than it has been during the present year. In the woollen trade, however, the cold winds have militated against the summer business and caused orders to be kept back in all directions. At Nottingham much machinery is unemployed, and the remainder working on short time.

The Tea market still continues in a very dull condition, and presents little calling for special notice. The sales have been lighter than last week, but prices remain much the same. The weekly sales, without reserve, which have so long been a promi-

ment feature in the market here, are now being held at the Commercial Sale Rooms instead of at those of the broker. It is to be hoped that this improved accommodation to the public may lead to more spirited bidding. It is generally considered that the cautious limits which have been sent out to China may lead to a favourable opening there. At present the feeling of depression is as great as ever, and there is little likelihood of their being increased.

The stagnation in the Silk Market continues unabated, and prices are unaltered. As yet nothing definite is known with reference to the European crops, but the reports are not satisfactory. No positive mischief is supposed to have resulted, but the cold weather has retarded matters fully ten days, and many holders of silk are not without expectation that from this and other causes the crop may be seriously compromised. In estimating the value of the opinions expressed, it is, however, very necessary to bear in mind that there is, of course, considerable likelihood of the wish being father to the thought. Upon one point bearing on the future prospects as to supply but little has hitherto been said, namely, the possibility, or, indeed, likelihood of there being less silk than usual in China this year, the supplies having been larger than usual, on account of the great rise in prices last season.

During the week which ended on the 28th ult. the total quantity of tea withdrawn from the bonded warehouses in London amounted to 3,425,535 lbs., which was an increase of 124,654 lbs. over the quantity taken out of bond during the corresponding week of 1876. Of this quantity 2,322,273 lbs. went for home consumption, 336,542 lbs. for exportation, 5,280 lbs. for ships' stores, and 761,431 lbs. went coastwise to various outports, 145,297 lbs. having been for immediate exportation. The sum paid in London for tea duty during the week amounted to £58,056 16s. 6d., which was £225 18s. less than was realised from the same source during the corresponding week of last year.

In the Produce Markets several articles, under the influence of continued speculative operations, show a further advance, although the excitement which followed the outbreak of war has to some extent abated, and a slight reaction has been occasioned by the advance in the Bank-rate. Coffee has been in strong demand, and large supplies of Plantation Ceylon have been purchased at an advance of 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Cotton shows a slight improvement. Sugar is again active, and a rise in value of 3d. to 6d. per cwt. has been established. Quotations of Rice have continued to advance until near the close, when a slight reaction has set in. Camphor, Cantharides, Cocoa-Nut Oil, Galls, Gambier, Manila Hemp, Japan Wax, Nutmegs, and Tin all exhibit an improvement. Coir Goods, Plumbago, and Pepper are dull, with a declining tendency.

The Stock Exchange Committee have allowed the Bonds of the Chinese Imperial Government Eight per Cent. Loan, 1874, to be officially quoted.

The Eastern Telegraph Company's traffic receipts for the month of April, 1877, amounted to £39,861, and to £30,354 in the corresponding period of 1876. The traffic receipts of the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company (Limited), for the month of April, 1877, amounted to £23,688, and to £14,497 for the corresponding period of 1876.

The P. and O. Company announce under the authority of the Director-General of the Post-office of India that the rate for the conveyance of book packets from London to British India has been reduced to 6d. per pound or fraction of a pound.

India Council drafts to the amount of 26½ lacs (say £265,000) were tendered for at the Bank of England on the 2nd inst., and £310,000 was allotted, which includes £45,000 left unallotted last week. Calcutta obtained £180,000, Madras £119,000, and Bombay £11,000. Tenders for telegrams on Calcutta and Madras at 1s. 8½d. per rupee receive 73 per cent., while bills obtain in full, and those on Bombay at 1s. 9d. obtain in full, there being no allotment below so far as that Presidency is concerned. As compared with last week, the minimum has been reduced ½d. per rupee.

A good amount of silver has been disposed of during the week, at prices varying from 54½d. to 54¼d., according to fineness. The market is weaker at the close, in response to the receipt of lower exchanges from India, and the nearest quotation is 53½d. per oz. standard. Mexican Dollars have been sold at 54½d. per oz.

Our advices from the Continent intimate an increased demand for silver, consequent on the war, and prices will improve in the course of this month materially.

The P. and O. steamer *Deccan*, which left Southampton Thursday with the heavy portion of next outward mail, has on board silver to the amount of £77,800 for Penang, £13,900 for Singapore, and £41,800 for Hong Kong.

BULLION AND EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

Bar Gold	... ..	77s. 9½d.	—	per oz. std.
United States Gold Coin	... ..	76s. 4d.	—	per oz.
German Gold Coin	... ..	76s. 3½d.	—	per oz.
Bar Silver, Fine	... ..	4s. 5½d.	—	per oz. std.
Bar Silver contg. 5 grs. Gold	... ..	4s. 6½d.	—	do.
Mexican Dollars	... ..	4s. 8½d.	—	per oz.
Spanish Dollars (Carobus)	... ..	—	—	per oz.
Five Franc Pieces	... ..	—	—	per oz.

EXPORT OF SILVER FROM SOUTHAMPTON TO CHINA AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Year.	China.	Straits.
1874	£1,658,855	£1,484,851
1875	723,894	870,120
1876	1,273,757	758,461
1877 to date	637,746	568,693

	60 d/s.	30 d/s.	Demand.
Colombo	1/8½	1/8½	1/8½
Singapore	3/10	3/10½	3/10½
Hong Kong	3/10	3/10½	3/10½
Shanghai	5/1½ to 5/2	5/1½ to 5/2½	5/2½ to 5/2½

BANK AND MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.

Shares.		Paid.	Closing Prices.
JOINT-STOCK BANKS.			
410	Agri...	All	10½ to 10½
25	Bank of Egypt	All	26 to 28
20	Chartered of India, Aust. and China	All	11 to 19
95	Chartered Merc. of India and China	All	25 to 28
30	City	10	14 to 15
100	Colonial	50	56 to 60
600fr.	Comptoir D'Escompte de Paris	All	640 fr.
225s.	Hong Kong and Shanghai	All	95 to 101
50	Imperial	25	16½ to 17½
50	London and County	25	61 to 69
100	London Joint-Stock	50	47½ to 48½
35	London and Westminster	20	11 to 13
50	Oriental	All	48 to 44
50	Union of London	10	46½ to 47½
TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.			
10	Eastern Extension Australia and China	All	7 to 7½
10	Eastern Telegraph	All	7 to 7½
10	Great Northern	All	7 to 8
25	Indo-European	All	16 to 18
10	Mediterranean Extension	All	5½ to 5½
12	Telegraph Construction Company	All	21 to 22½
90	India-rub., Gutta-perc., & Teleg. Works	All	11½ to 12
8	Reuter's	All	11½ to 12½
INSURANCE COMPANIES.			
100	Alliance Marine	25	20 to 22
20	British and Foreign Marine	5	9½ to 10½ pm.
20	Commercial Union	5	11½ to 12½ pm.
50	Globe Marine	5	5 to 5½ dis.
10	Home and Colonial Marine	5	—
10	Imperial Marine	5	—
20	London and Provincial Marine	2	1½ to 1½ pm.
10	Mercantile Marine	2	3 to 3½ dis.
50	North British and Mercantile	25	46 to 49
20	Ocean Marine	5	2½ to 3½ pm.
20	Thames and Mersey	2	8½ to 8½
50	Union Marine, Liverpool	5	7½ to 7½
90	Universal Marine	5	3½ to 3½
TEA COMPANIES.			
60	Assam	20	70 to 73
20	British Indian	All	64 to 64
20	Darjeeling	All	19 to 20
10	Eastern Assam	All	44 to 44
20	Forehand, Limited	All	51 to 57
10	Teahung	All	11½ to 12½
10	Upper Assam	All	64 to 64
MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES.			
10	Ceylon	10	10½ to 10½ dis.
20	Do.	5	11 to 11 dis.
40	Colonial	20	18½ to 19½
10	Hong Kong and China Gas	All	31 to 31 dis.
10	International Finance	5	9½ to 10
35	National Discount	5	615 fr.
500fr.	Messageries Maritimes of France	All	11 to 11
50	P. and O. Steam	All	9 to 9
50	Do.	10	49 to 52
100	Royal Mail Steam	60	690 fr.
400fr.	Suez Canal	—	—
60	Japan Loan, 9 per cent.	All	104 to 107
20	Do.	All	100 to 102
100	Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874, 8 per cent.	All	100 to 105

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

TEA.

Mr. D. D. Lewin's Market Résumé says:—There is no change for the better to note in the position of our market; in fact, business is more dull and depressed just now than it has been for many seasons past at this time. The slight improvement in common Congous has again been lost, and all low grade descriptions have reached a point exceptionally cheap. The business, as for some time previously, has been chiefly confined to public sale Teas. The clearances, both for home use and export, are good and improving. Congou: Siftings, being scarce, maintain quotations. Black Leafs: Sound to good common must be quoted fully ½d. per lb. lower. In fair to good medium, ranging from 9d. to 1s. 3d., there is little doing, and prices are quite nominal. Fine and finest are without much change, and stocks; running down, are held pretty firmly for price. Red Leafs: Common kinds continuing to be freely offered at auction, recent sales have gone off very heavily. Fine and finest, being comparatively scarce, command attention. Souchongs are in limited inquiry. Pak-lings: A few transactions at about former values. New Makes, at from 3d. to 10d., wanted. Fine also in some request. Oolongs: Fine parcels Formosa readily saleable; Common kinds neglected. Scented Teas are without noticeable change. Greens continue depressed in value, except for the finer lines, which still realise fair prices. Indian Teas have latterly sold less briskly, and previous quotations are barely maintainable.

Quotations:—Congou: Black and Red Siftings and Leafy Tea, 6d. to 7½d. Black Leafs: Low to good common, 6½d. to 8d.; fair to good medium, 8½d. to 1s. 3d.; fine and finest, 1s. 5d. to 2s. Red Leafs:

Low to good common, 7d. to 8d.; fair to good medium, 8½d. to 1s. 3d.; fine to finest, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d. Pakings: Common to good, 9½d. to 1s.; fine and finest, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. Amoy: Common kinds, 8d. to 9d.; fair to fine, 9½d. to 1s. 4d. Teyshana: Common to fair and good, 8d. to 1s.; good to fine, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 6d. Souchong: Low to good common, 7½d. to 9d.; fair to medium, 9½d. to 1s. 3d. nominal. Oolong: Canton kinds, common to good, 11d. to 1s. 1d. Formosa, good to fine, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. Scented Capers: Low to good, 11d. to 1s. 2d.; fine and finest, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. nominal. Scented Orange Pekoe: Low to good, 10½d. to 1s. 2d.; fine, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. Greens: Gunpowder, 8d. to 3s. 4½d. for finest; Imperial, 5½d. to 1s. 3½d.; Hyson, 6d. to 2s. 10d. for finest; Young Hyson, 6d. to 1s. 8d. Clearances from 1st Jan. to 30th April, inclusive:—

Home Use.	Export.	Total.
1877—50,352,723	9,485,657	59,838,496
1876—49,093,245	7,985,266	57,078,511

Messrs. Arthur Capel and Co.'s Circular says:—The public sales being smaller this week and containing a less quantity of Congou has checked the downward tendency of the market and the prices obtained for common or fair common black and red-leaf Congous show a slight improvement. Scented Teas and Green Teas on the other hand have sold in favour of buyers. Business by private contract is still on a limited scale, but the prices obtained for fair to medium kinds have been better than those ruling lately at public auction.

SILK.

Messrs. John Kershaw, Kilburn and Co.'s Circular says:—The market for all classes of Silk has been exceedingly dull and depressed. There is hardly any demand for Silk; even the ordinary hand to mouth trade, which in dull times generally keeps the market going, has become so small that the total operations are most insignificant. The deliveries of Chinas during the past month were very small, only 1,238 bales, but of Cantons and Japans on a better scale, being 449 and 539 bales respectively. The total stocks of Silk, however, owing to the small arrivals, show a decline on the 1st May from those of the previous month. Holders of silk are not pressing sales, preferring to await the result of the European crops.

Messrs. Durant and Co.'s Circular says:—The position is still very unsatisfactory, scarcely any business and dropping prices. Small as were the transactions in March, especially the latter part of the month, those of April have been upon a far more limited scale. We hear on all sides of a large number of looms and mills being stopped or going upon very short time, and the sameness of things is supposed to exist on the Continent, hence the extreme smallness of our deliveries, but hence also one ground of hope for the future in the relief that will be thus afforded to the stock of manufactured goods, for although the demand appears to be very limited, and prices very unsatisfactory, yet considerable parcels are sold occasionally, and stocks are gradually diminishing, so slowly probably as to be scarcely perceptible; still the sales must be in excess of present production:—

Delivered.		Delivered.	
April, 1877.	April, 1876.	Jan. 1 to Apr. 30, '77.	Jan. 1 to Apr. 30, '76.
76	263	425	912
36	...	142	10
1,287	2,017	6,796	10,337
539	453	1,863	1,597
449	350	2,326	1,933
7	4	11	60

LONDON QUOTATIONS—MAY 8.

CHINA.			
Taipei, No. 1	...	32s. 6d. to 34s. 0d.	
" No. 2	...	32s. 6d. to 33s. 0d.	
" No. 3	...	31s. 6d. to 32s. 0d.	
" Red Peacock	...	17s. 6d.	
Yuenfai and Hainan, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	18s. 6d. to 22s. 0d.	
Taynam Keying, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	17s. 6d. to 23s. 6d.	
Long Reel	...	10s. 6d. to 14s. 0d.	
Canton	...	12s. 0d. to 17s. 6d.	
Chinese Throw	...	18s. 0d. to 19s. 0d.	
JAPAN.			
Matsumi and Sinehu, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	18s. 6d. to 25s. 0d.	
Idah, No. 2 (None)	...	18s. 6d. to 19s. 0d.	
Soda, No. 2	...	17s. 6d. to 19s. 0d.	
Oshin, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	11s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.	
Amatsuki	...	22s. 0d. to 24s. 0d.	
Kakidaka	...	19s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.	
Hatcho-geo	...	19s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.	

COFFEES.—Supplies of Plantation Ceylon at the public sales last week have not only been much in excess of any previous week this year, but also of any day during 1876. Early in the week the demand was active, and a further advance of 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per cwt. was established, making a total rise in the past fortnight of about 5s. per cwt. Within the last two days, however, although the supply has been lighter, there has been less demand, and prices at the close are in some instances 6d. lower. Closing quotations are, Plantation triage 80s. to 85s. 6d., grey to colour small 92s. to 96s., low middling 97s. to 98s., middling 98s. 6d. to 101s. 6d., good middling 102s. to 104s., dull to fine bold 106s. to 115s., pea-berry 105s. to 108s., Native small and broken, 72s., good ordinary 81s., bold at 84s. 6d., per cwt.

CHINA STAR ANNIVERSARY.—100 cases good fair China Star, rather stalky, sold at 92s. 6d. to 93s., the first lot 93s. 6d.

CANTHAREDES have advanced, and business has been done in China at 2s. 7d. to 2s. 8d.

CHINA PRESERVERS.—330 cases China Ginger (Chyloong) bought in at 8d. to 9d., except 150 cases (containing jars with various defects), which sold at 5d. to 5½d. per lb.

CUTOH.—At auction 322 boxes Pegu have been bought in at 25s. 6d., also 728 boxes Calcutta Pegu (C.B. and Co. in triangle) at 23s. per cwt.

CAMPBELL.—A good demand has prevailed; 1,500 tube Japan have been sold for arrival, per Jumna, particulars not reported; 60 cases damaged China have been sold at 87s. 6d., and 90s. has been paid for

sound Japan, and at the close that price is required for China, and 92s. 6d. to 95s. per cwt. for Japan.

COCOA NUT OIL.—A further advance has occurred, £38 having been paid for Ceylon in pipes. Cochin is quoted £42 per ton.

GALIA.—China have been sold privately at 54s. per cwt., and in public sale 100 cases have been bought in at 50s. per cwt.

GAMBIA.—Early in the week at auction 322 boxes 817 bags pale free cubes sold at dearer rates, viz., at 30s., first-class damaged 26s. to 28s. For arrival 100 tons March-April were sold at 21s. ex ship all faults. Subsequently the market has become quiet, 50 tons have been sold at 20s. 6d. ex ship arrived, business has been done on the spot at 20s. 9d. for whole bales, and for arrival 50 tons March-April shipment have been sold at 20s. 9d. ex ship.

GUM BENJAMIN.—30 cases Sumatra, seconds, sold, fair rather badly mixed with dark at £7 5s., grey, £5 17s. 6d. to £6. Of 101 cases thirds 15 cases common sold at 56s., the remainder bought in at 65s. or withdrawn.

HIDES.—Messrs. Dyster, Nalder, and Co.'s Monthly Circular says:—The business done in Kips in the Hair at the public sales (one series only having been held during the month) has been unimportant, and prices were frequently the turn in favour of buyers. By private transactions are limited at about former rates. Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, &c., Ox and Cow Hides: The Penang Hides offered at public sale were of good quality, and realised full prices. The Rangoon Hides were chiefly remnants from previous sales, and were again taken in. China Hides have been in unprecedentedly large supply, and considerable clearances were effected by public and private at a decline of ½d. to ¾d. per lb.; but the market has assumed a firmer tone, and better prices are now obtainable. The sales comprise 3,557 Penang: Light, seconds, 8d. to 8½d.; thirds, 5½d.; Heavy, seconds, 6½d. to 7d.; extra heavy, 5½d. to 6½d.; small, seconds, 7½d. to 8½d. per lb. 100 Manila: Mixed weights, 6½d. to 6¾d. per lb.; 30,856 China: Light, 6d. to 6½d.; heavy, 5½d. to 6½d.; extra heavy, 6d. to 6½d.; Kips, 6½d. to 8d.; thirds, 4½d. to 5½d.; fourths, 2½d. per lb. Singapore, Penang, &c., Buffalo Hides have been in fair request, but prices, in some instances, have slightly receded. The sales are 5,016 Singapore: fair to good, first heavy, average 23½ lb., 5½d.; ordinary to fair, first heavy, average 30 to 34½ lb., 4½d. to 5½d.; seconds, average 25½ to 34½ lb., 4½d.; light, average 9½ to 14½ lb., 6d. to 5½d.; thirds, 4d. per lb. 360 China: heavy, average 39½ lb. 4½d.; light, average 12½ lb., 4½d.; thirds, average 33½ lb., 4½d. per lb. Java Hides: A few (147) extra heavy Batavia Ox and Cow Hides, average 14½ lb., have been sold at 9d. per lb. The sales of Batavia Buffalo consist of only 369 Hides; Unshaved, ordinary heavy, average 34½ lb. 5½d. per lb. At the periodical public sales last sales' values were fully maintained on the average. The few Penang Ox and Cow afforded no criterion of value. China were in large supply, owners were firm holders for ½d. per lb. advance on the last sales' rates, which has been obtained privately in the interval, but at this advance the trade operated sparingly, and the article was bought in freely. The extreme weights were most saleable. Singapore Buffalo brought full prices. Of 42,405 China Ox and Cow offered 18,070 sold. Light, average 10½ to 11½ lb. 6½d. to 7d.; heavy, average 15½ to 20 lb. 6½d. to 7d.; extra heavy, average 22½ to 30½ lb. 6½d. to 7½d.; kips and skins, average 4½ to 9½ lb. 7d. to 8d.; thirds, 5½d. to 5½d. per lb. Buffalo.—123 Batavia withdrawn. Of 1,517 Singapore offered 1,128 sold; fair, 1st heavy average 32½ lb. 5½d.; 2nd heavy, average 28½ lb. 4½d.; light, average 11½ to 18½ lb. 5½d. to 5½d. per lb.

HEMP.—The market for Manila continues strong, and prices have further advanced, more especially for arrival, in which position 1,000 bales Cebu, distant shipment, have been sold at £32, and 500 bales at £32 10s. At the fortnightly public sales there was a steady demand at a recent improvement, and £31 was obtained for fair current, but owing to the firmness of holders only a small part sold. Of 1,660 bales offered 500 bales sold, a few bales common to fair brown at £28 to £30, fine brown Cebu £30 10s., fair to fully fair £31 to £31 10s., one lot ordinary Quilot £31 15s., the remainder being bought in at £31 to £32 10s., Quilot at £35 to £37; III bales very low towelled Manila sold without reserve at £22 10s. to £22 15s.

JAPAN WAX.—About 100 cases have been sold at 44s. per cwt. 200 boxes fair squares have been sold at 44s., and subsequently business has been done in squares at 45s. per cwt.

MUKE.—Of 10 tons Tonquin 7 tons sold, pile 1 fair to good fair shaped with a few bally at 46s., damp with a few skinny at 40s.; pile 3 hard rough, &c., 14s. to 15s. 6d. 25 packages Yunnan bought in at 54s. to 36s. per ton.

PLUMBAGO.—At auction 260 barrels Ceylon have been sold, lump at barely previous rates, chips and dust steadier, fine bright lump at 14s. to 15s. 6d., chips 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d., fine bold ditto 11s. to 12s., dust 7s. 9d. to 8s. 6d. per cwt.

PEPPER.—Black: A very dull tone continues to prevail, and with little disposition to buy sales can only be effected at easier rates. Although only 717 bags were offered by auction the bulk was bought in; 472 bags Singapore bought in at 3½d., 57 bags Penang sold at 3½d.; of 120 bags Tellicherry 50 bags sold at 4d. White: A small supply at auction met a rather better demand at firmer rates, and of 153 bags Singapore 123 bags sold, chiefly good at 6½d., one lot brown at 6½d., 116 bags Penang sold at 6d.

RICE.—Early in last week seven cargoes were sold, viz.:—One of 2,000 tons Basselin, March sailing, at 10s.; one of 800 tons Basselin, now loading, at 10s. 1½d.; the India, 1,186 tons Rangoon, January sailing, at 10s. 3d.; the Polynesian, 1,226 tons Rangoon, March sailing, at 10s. 4½d. One of 800 tons Rangoon, March, at 10s. 4½d.; the Aberfoyle, 1,162 tons Moulinein, at about 10s. 6d.; and the Secundo Z, 1,091 tons Necrasie, March sailing, at 10s. 1½d. During the past few days the speculative demand has ceased, but a decline of about 1½d. per cwt. having been accepted, some business has been done. On the spot 7,000 bags Rangoon have been sold at 11s. 10½d., and 3,000 bags Moulinein at 10s. 3d. About 280 tons old Necrasie, transhipped at the Cape per Laura, off coast, have been sold at 9s. 3d. ex ship London; also six cargoes, viz.:—The Ernesto Padre, 858 tons Rangoon, Feb-

ruary sailing, at 10s. 4½d.; one of 1,200 tons Rangoon, April sailing, at 10s. 3d.; one of 1,200 tons April at 10s. 1½d. if Rangoon, and 9s. 10½d. if Bassein; the Thorwaldsen, 930 tons Necranis, March sailing, at 10s.; the Eugene, 1,100 tons Necranis, April sailing, at 10s. 1½d., and one of 1,100 tons Necranis, May shipment, at 10s. 1½d.

RUBBER.—Of 36 chests China offered 15 chests sold, good fair with some dark fracture at 3s. 8d., good middling to fair 2s. 3d. to 2s. 8d., common small at 1s. 3d.

SPICES.—Cinnamon: 10 cases China withdrawn, 6 bags Ceylon Bark sold at 2½d. Nutmegs: Full rates were paid at the auctions, and of 28 cases Penang 20 cases sold, average 75 nuts to the lb. at 3s. 10d. to 3s. 11d., 115's at 2s. 5d. to 2s. 6d.; of 50 cases Java only 10 cases sold, 88's at 3s. 6d., 100's bought in at 2s. 10d., and 122's at 2s. 5d.; 4 cases Wild Java bought in at 11d. Macis: 4 cases Penang were bought in at 2s. 5d. to 3s. per lb.

SUGAR.—An improved demand has prevailed for both refining kinds and brown, resulting in business of good extent at full to occasionally slightly dearer rates. The following is a record of the week's business in East India descriptions. On the 27th ult., privately 1,800 bags brown native Penang have been sold at 19s., being cheaper. In auction 1,573 bags fine yellow clayed China were bought in at 27s. 6d. to 28s., 200 bags refined, very fine white pieces, sold at 34s. On the 28th, privately 1,573 bags good to fine yellow China, ex the previous day's auction, sold at 26s. 6d. to 27s. 6d., chiefly the latter price. On the 1st inst. at auction 7,541 bags European Penang, consisting chiefly of crystallised, met a good export demand, and 6,800 bags sold at full rates, middling to good yellow crystallised at 29s. 6d. to 30s. 6d., fine at 31s. to 32s., white at 33s.; 554 bags fine Native chiefly sold at 21s. Privately 140 tons Native Penang sold on the spot at 19s. 6d. In auction 1,330 bags brown clayed China were bought in at 22s. 6d.; 1,578 bags refined Hong Kong (Pieces) were sold, chiefly soft white at 30s. 6d., colour at 27s. 6d. to 28s. Privately 3,000 bags brown Swatow sold at 20s. to 20s. 6d., and 6,000 bags Formosa at 20s. 6d. On the 2nd inst. privately 700 bags Native Penang were sold at 20s., and for arrival 100 tons also at 20s.; 1,500 bags Swatow sold at 20s. 6d., and 4,000 bags low China at 20s. The floating cargo, per Heron, 2,529 baskets Java No. 15½, sold at 32s. 6d. for Bristol. On the 3rd inst. (Thursday) on the spot 100 tons brown Native Penang sold at 21s., being again higher, 150 tons unclayed Zebu sold at 21s., also 15,000 bags China (Hong Kong) at 21s. The floating cargo per the Disperier, 520 tons Java No. 13½, sold at 14, sold at 32s. for France.

SAGO.—At the public sales 2,332 bags were offered and about 1,500 bags disposed of; small went off slowly at former rates, but large and medium sold readily at full prices; good bright small sold at 17s., fair at 16s. 3d., good medium at 20s. to 20s. 6d., fair to good large at 18s. 6d. to 19s. 6d. Flour: 800 bags Singapore sold at 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d.

TAPIOCA.—Only 140 bags fine Singapore offered, and a lot at 2½d. Pearl: 819 bags sold at firm rates, chiefly good medium at 18s. 6d., the remainder extra large bullets at 21s. 6d. to 22s. Flour: 5 cases bought in at 2½d.

TIN has improved in value, Straits having been sold on the spot at £71, and for arrival at £70 per ton. Banca is quoted £73 to £74, and Billiton £71 per ton.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

METALS.

IRON.—Welsh: Rails, £5 10s. to £5 15s.; Bars, £6; Staffordshire Best: Bars, £7 10s. to £8; Nail Rods, £7 10s. to £8; Hoops, £2 10s. to £2 15s.; Sheets, £9 10s. to £12; Scotch Pig No. 1, £2 13s. 6d. to £3 4s.; Swedes, Bars, Hammered, £11 to £12; Swedes, Steel in kegs, ½ and ¾ in., £16 10s.

YELLOW METAL.—Sheets, 4 by 4 ft., 7½d.; Sheathing and Rods, 7½d. per lb.

TIN.—English Refined, £76. Tin Plates: Charcoal IC, per box, 22s. 6d. to 23s.; Coke, 18s. to 22s.

LEAD.—WB, £22; do., other brands, £21 5s. to £21 10s.; Spanish soft, ex ship, £20 15s. to £21; Sheet, £22 to £22 10s.; Shot (kegs extra), £24 10s. to £24 16s.; White do., £28.

SILVER.—Silesian, £20 10s.

QUICKSILVER.—In bottles of 75 lbs. each, £7 5s.

MANCHESTER GOODS.

On the 27th ult. buyers evinced little inclination to extend operations, and there was consequently but a small business done in either Yarns or Goods. Notwithstanding this slackness of demand, however, manufacturers adhered to their quotations with some show of steadiness, declining the bulk of the offers which continued to be put forward at considerable concessions on current prices. Spinners were easier to deal with, especially those holding stocks, and a small business was done in Yarns at declining rates. There has been no material change this week in the position of the Market, and a quieter feeling has ruled, without, however, affecting the steadiness of prices. The transactions in both Yarns and Goods have been on a moderate scale, and mostly at producers' quotations. On the part of buyers the disposition is to act with caution. The aspect of affairs in many important foreign markets is felt to be very uncertain in face of a war of which the issues and complications are so difficult to foresee. But whilst this is the general feeling, it is not forgotten how often war has been the means of reviving trade, and the lowness of current prices tend in a large measure to counteract the more cautious tendency. Hence there is a stronger disposition to buy than might be supposed from the generally quiet aspect of the market, but for the most part at prices which are impracticable. In export yarns the sales have been on the whole of little importance. For the Continent there has been rather more doing, and for China also; but Calcutta merchants have bought little, and for the Levant scarcely anything is reported. India and China Shirtings of 39-inch widths meet with only a moderate demand, except at 1½d. to 3d. below the lowest rates which manufacturers will accept; 45-inch are exceedingly dull. T-Cloths and Mexicans continue quiet, with little change in prices.

QUOTATIONS.

			s.	d.		s.	d.
Grey Shirtings	...	38½-39 in.	7½s.	6 34	to	7 68	
Do. do.	...	41-42 in.	7½s.	6 34	to	8 7	
Do. do.	...	44-45 in.	7½s.	6 34	to	8 34	
Do. do.	...	46-47 in.	7½s.	6 34	to	8 10	
Do. do.	...	48-49 in.	7½s.	6 34	to	9 104	
Do. do.	...	50 in.	7½s.	6 34	to	10 1	
Grey T-Cloths	...	38 in.	6½s.	4 34	to	5 1	
Do. do.	...	39 in.	6½s.	4 34	to	5 11	1-18
Do. do. (Mexicans)	...	39 in.	6½s.	4 34	to	5 11	1-18
Do. do.	...	36 in.	6½s.	4 34	to	5 11	1-18
Madapollams	...	37 in.	2½s. 8oz.	2 11-10	to	2 11-10	
Grey Jaconets	...	38 in.	2½s. 1oz.	2 11-10	to	2 11-10	
Grey Drills	...	30 in.	14½s.	8 64	to	11 64	
Grey Jeans	...	30 in.	14½s.	8 64	to	11 64	
White Spot Shirtings	...	36 in.	36 in.	10 6	to	10 6	
Broadwaists	...	36 in.	17 44	to	17 44		
Water Twist (China quality)	...	16-34	0 94	to	0 104		
Do. do. do.	...	2-32	0 104	to	1 04		
Do. do. (Mock)	...	38-42	0 11	to	1 04		

EXPORT OF WOOLLENS TO CHINA AND JAPAN.

The following is Messrs. Hayter and Hayter's Monthly Statement of the estimated Exports of Woollens shipped to China and Japan from London and Liverpool:—

		Pieces Long Ellis.	Pieces Camlets.	Pieces Lastings and Crepe Lastings.	Pieces other Woollens and Union Stuffs.	Pieces Spanish Shag.	Pieces other Woollens.
Shipped to this date during the present year	To China	39,620	32,991	16,230	76,380	19,442	9,596
	„ Japan	—	251	360	41,600	—	23,470
Total	...	39,620	33,241	16,590	117,980	19,442	33,066
Shipped to the same date last year	To China	48,620	30,570	15,070	65,590	23,490	5,148
	„ Japan	—	—	230	24,780	—	7,738
Total	...	48,620	30,570	15,300	90,370	23,490	12,886
Do. 1876	To China	46,080	28,500	18,140	59,095	18,235	1,738
	„ Japan	—	710	330	59,615	—	4,580
Total	...	46,080	29,210	18,470	118,710	18,235	22,318
Total shipped during the year 1876	To China	119,500	78,610	38,930	133,369	64,335	32,648
	„ Japan	—	—	1,770	130,905	—	52,194
Total	...	119,500	78,610	40,700	264,273	64,335	84,842
Do. 1875	To China	112,640	68,720	64,970	196,710	55,817	70,950
	„ Japan	—	2,470	1,160	261,550	—	62,319
Total	...	112,640	69,190	66,130	458,260	55,817	133,269

WOOLLEN GOODS.—LONDON QUOTATIONS.

HH Long Ellis	...	33 0	per piece	Scarlet
HH Spanish Stripes	...	2 10	yard	„
HH Camlets	...	63 0	piece	„
SS	...	...	...	...
HH Lastings (6 reed)	...	50 0	Black	Black
H Do. (5 reed)	...	44 6	Black	Black
HH China Figures	...	18 6	Black	Black
H Do. do.	...	15 6	Black	Black
LL Do. do.	...	14 9	Black	Black

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	From.	At.
Apr. 10	Antioch	Merrill	Hong Kong	San Francisco
16	Septima (s.)	Moisen	Manila	Antwerp
17	Strathairley (s.)	—	Rangoon	Liverpool
18	Iloue	Griffiths	Sourabaya	Greenock
18	Leader	Knight	Shanghai	New York
18	Oboron	Schmidt	Manila	Hoson
2	Ellis	—	Ho Ho	Liverpool
2	Cape Finisterre	Robertson	Java	San Francisco
23	Nigeria (s.)	Petersen	Manila	Amsterdam
24	Atalanta (s.)	—	Ho	London
25	Faugh-a-Ballagh	Rute	Hong Kong	Do
25	Hearte Adriane	Schuchard	Sourabaya, for Amst	Pressed L of Wight
25	Frederick	—	Manila	Off Holyhead
25	William Melhuish	Morgan	Sourabaya	Ymuiden
25	Aurora	Lindgren	Panaroenang	Do
25	Ventus	Humble	Samarang	Texel
26	Maria and Elizabeth	Houjer	Batavia	Flushing
26	Aberfeldy (s.)	Howell	Rangoon	Liverpool
26	Jessie Jamieson	West	Samarang	Queensdown
27	Nois	McIntyre	Singapore	Liverpool
28	Madeline (s.)	Pearce	Rang. for Nieu Diep	Texel
28	Christina	Freeman	Padang	New York
28	Patroclus (s.)	Murphy	Shanghai	London
29	Hamburg	—	Hong Kong	Do
30	Winton (s.)	V. Krog	Swatow	Off Deal
May 1	Norton (s.)	Croft	Rangoon	Liverpool
1	Hopewell	Jones	Manila	London
2	Cadiz (s.)	Parsons	Hong Kong	Glasgow
2	Peer of the Realm	Vehervaria	Manila	Liverpool
		Nicholson	Rangoon	Do.

DEPARTURES.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	For	From
Apr. 9	Harriet N. Carlton	Hartness	Manila	San Francisco
10	Connaught Ranger	Hansford	Singapore	Do.
12	South American	Knowles	Manila	Do.
15	Noach II.	—	Batavia	Rotterdam
17	Wine	Boog	Sourabaya	Do.
18	Walmer Castle	Lenfesty	Anjer	Cardiff
18	Cremona	Coro	Yokohama	(Clared) N. York
19	Claro Mabuyan	—	Anjer	Sunderland
19	Duchra	Spiller	Rangoon	Greenock
19	Victoria (s.)	Boilegu	Manila	Liverpool
20	Nereus	Schrier	Sourabaya	Shields
20	Orca	Stennard	Batavia	Liverpool
21	Chica	Riquies	Manila	Cardif
24	Jacob Roggeveen	Rolf	Sourabaya	Ymuiden
25	Trinidad	Mansun	Java	Cardif
25	Batavia (s.)	—	Batavia	Off Dungeness
25	Eme	Aske	Yokohama and Higo	London
26	Nankin (s.)	Brace	Penang, &c.	Do.
26	Mia. Fraus. v. d. Paite	Osterrath	Batavia	Flushing
27	J. W. Oliver	—	Java	Penarth
27	Stella Maria	—	Singapore	Do.
27	James Holt	Jarvis	Anjer	Sunderland
27	Cresswell	White	Singapore	Do.
27	Ino	Mahr	Bangkok	Hamburg
28	Albee	McBride	Singapore	Penarth
28	Gebroeders Smit	—	Sourabaya	(Off Dungeness
28	Fokke	Reinders	Padang	Ymuiden
28	Stravenhage	Derive	Batavia	Flushing
29	Alfons (s.)	Muller	Singapore, &c.	London
29	Paradis	Olivari	Singapore	Cardif
29	Joseph Haydn	—	Do.	Penarth
29	Holdea	—	Do.	Do.
29	Cornelia	V. Bonten	Sourabaya	Ymuiden
29	Vesta	Schomer	Manila	Hamburg
30	Hugo	Thrt	Singapore	Greenock
30	Meggie Dixon	Proudfoot	Padang	Sunderland
May 1	Prins van Oranje (s.)	Aukes	Batavia	Southampton
1	Abney Cooper	Carr	Shanghai	London
1	Menelaus (s.)	—	Penang, &c.	Liverpool
1	Huntly Castle	Scate	Singapore	Greenock
1	Granite City	Hugan	Batavia	Do.
1	Michael Angelo	Ellis	Do.	Hull
1	Louis de Geer (s.)	Bull	Do.	Penarth
1	Anna	—	Sourabaya	West Cowes, L.W.
1	Swiftsure	Overkift	Singapore	Shields

See Shipping Postscript and Correspondents' Letters.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

Date.	Steamer.	From	For
April 23	Quinta	Rangoon	Flensburg
28	Tenasserim	Glasgow	Rangoon
30	Gordon Castle	London	China
May 2	Diomed	Liverpool	Shanghai

SPOKEN.

JEAN PIERRE, Saigon to Rio Janeiro, March 8, 36 S., 17 E.
 FORWARD Ho, London to Shanghai, March 12, 27 S., 32 W.
 WEMYS CASTLE, London to Penang, April 11, 11 N., 26 W.
 SIERRA MADRONA, Rangoon to Liverpool, March 12, 2 N., 91 E.
 GRATITUDE, Rangoon to Liverpool, February 1, 37 S., 36 W.
 SABINA, New York to Anjer, April 11, 30 N., 37 W.
 OSAKA, London to Hong Kong, March 23, 4 N., 21 W.
 CHALMETTE, Hong Kong to London, April 5, 19 N., 25 W.
 PARANA, Hong Kong to Hamburg, April 8.
 MERIONETH (f), Liverpool to Rangoon, Jan. 25, 42 days out.
 WM. FAIRBAIRN, for Japan, April 6, 7 S., 34 W.
 J.D.T.K. (American ship), Singapore to Boston, Mar. 13, 16 S., 12 W.
 ELECTRA, Singapore to Boston, March 13, 16 S., 12 W.
 HUDSON, Singapore to Boston, March 21, 5 N., 29 W.
 NIMBUS, Cardiff to Hong Kong, March 28, 4 N., 29 W.
 L.T.D.H. (Germ. barque), Cardiff to Singapore, April 21, 49 N., 10 W.

CASUALTIES.

NEW YORK.—April 15, the Bethany, from Hong Kong to New York, previously reported ashore, had not broken up on April 16, but was gradually settling in the sand; the hull was covered by two feet of water at low tide.

HULL.—May 1, the Michael Angelo, from Hull to Java, on anchoring in Hull Roads to-day, collided with a schooner, but was undamaged.

WEST COWES.—May 1, the Anna, Overkift, from Rotterdam, for Sourabaya, which put in here leaky, on Dec. 29, was towed to sea to-day.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CADIZ.—Sailed, April 26, Victoria (str.), for Barcelona and Manila.

NAPLES.—Arrived, April 25, Conrad (str.), from Batavia, for Nieuwe Diep.

GIBRALTAR.—Arrived, April 27, Chelydra (str.), from Bassein, for Hamburg. Passed, April 26, Langshaw (str.), from Rangoon, to Liverpool.

MALTA.—Sailed, April 21, Ferdinand Van der Taelan (str.), from Bassein, for Liverpool. Passed, April 27, Diomed (str.) (f), from Liverpool, for Shanghai; Anchises (str.), from China; Lufra (str.), from Akyab, for Antwerp; 30, Glengyle (str.), from London, for Shanghai. Arrived, April 27, Sceptre (str.), from Rangoon.

CAPE TOWN.—Arrived, March 30, Arunda, from Manila.

PORT ELIZABETH.—Sailed, March 27, Golden Fleecy; 28, Garstang, both for Guam.

ALBOA BAY.—Passed, March 26, Lennox Castle, from Singapore for London.

MAURITIUS.—Arrived, March 7, Cumberland, from Maulmain for Falmouth; put in for repairs.

NEW YORK.—April 26, the Nonpareil, from Batavia, for Boston, which put into Table Bay, Feb. 23, was completing repairs on March 13; she required a new rudder, and a little calking to stop the main leak, which was above water. The Brothers German, from Singapore to this port, which put into Table Bay on Feb. 19, was undergoing extensive repairs on March 13, having new beams, masts, rigging, &c. April 21, the Obed Baxter, arrived here from Manila, reports:—April 13 and 14, in lat. 33, lon. 74, experienced a gale from E.S.E.; lay four hours with decks under water. London, April 28: The Stella, in the river, from Shanghai, reports:—On Feb. 4 and 5, off Cape Recife, experienced a heavy gale, and was thrown on her beam ends.

LOADING.

AT LONDON.—STAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—For Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama, and Nagasaki: Glenorchy. For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Mikado, Lotus. For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, Yokohama, and Higo: Lorne.

SAILING VESSELS.—For Yokohama: Lethair. For Yokohama and Higo: Pauline, Kingdom of Sweden. For Shanghai: Wylo. For Hong Kong: Melbrey, James Shepherd, Ferdinand Brunum, Kate Carnie, Elmstone, Lord of the Isles. For Batavia: Valero, Ada, Indian. For Singapore: Lake Leman. For Penang: Colono.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Achilles (str.). For Hong Kong: Lord Macaulay, Pilgrim, Stagbound, Peruvian, Sophia. For Yokohama, &c.: Newnan Hall. For Manila: Teodora. For Anjer: Longfellow. For Singapore: Sapphire, Franz Uthemann.

AT GLASGOW.—For Manila: Misko. For Ilo Ilo: Leonie. For Colombo: Ben Macdhui.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

Rates for steamers on the berth have an upward tendency. By sailing ships the rates are low. Coal rates are stiffening, especially for steamers. Homeward chartering shows some movement.

Current Rates of Freight for Vessels on the Berth.

Per STAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—To Yokohama: 45s. weight, 45s. meat. To Higo: 45s. weight, 50s. meat. To Nagasaki: 60s. weight, 65s. meat. To Shanghai: 35s. weight, 35s. meat. To Hankow: 45s. weight, 50s. meat. To Hong Kong: 35s. weight, 35s. meat. To Singapore: 35s. weight, 35s. meat. To Penang: 35s. weight, 35s. meat. To Colombo: 30s. weight or meat. To Batavia: 60s. meat. To Samarang: 70s. meat. To Sourabaya: 70s. meat.

Per SAILING VESSELS.—To Yokohama: 30s. weight, 30s. meat. To Higo: 30s. weight or meat. To Shanghai: 25s. weight, 20s. meat. To Hong Kong: 25s. weight, 20s. meat. To Singapore: 22s. 6d. weight, 20s. meat. To Penang: 22s. 6d. weight, 20s. meat. To Batavia Samarang, and Sourabaya: 20s. to 25s. weight, 25s. to 30s. meat. To Colombo: 25s. weight, 22s. 6d. meat.

The current quotations for coal, &c., are as follows:—From Wear or Tyne, per keel.—To Yokohama: £30. To Shanghai: £30. To Hong Kong: £25. To Singapore: £22. To Penang: £23. To Colombo: £20. To Galle: £18. To Batavia and Sourabaya: £19.

From Newport, Cardiff, or Swansea, per ton.—To Yokohama: 30s. To Shanghai: 30s. To Hong Kong: 27s. To Manila: 25s. To Singapore: 23s. To Colombo: 20s. To Galle: 21s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 23s.

From Birkenhead, per ton.—To Hong Kong: 22s. 6d. To Shanghai: 25s. To Singapore: 20s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 18s. To Galle: 26s.

GENERAL SHIPPING NEWS.

A STEAMER of about 3,000 tons has been launched by Messrs. Napier and Sons, Glasgow, for Messrs. Donald Currie and Co.'s London and Cape mail packet service. The vessel was named the Dublin Castle, in honour of the Duke of Manchester, the last elected Knight of St. Patrick, and President of the Royal Colonial Institute. The Dublin Castle is one of six vessels in course of construction on the Clyde for the same line.

AN ADMIRALTY APPEAL.—The appeal "Hart v. Avigno," from the Vice-Admiralty Court, Bengal, respecting a collision between the *Dacca* and *Micheline* in the Rangoon River, has been decided by the Judicial Committee. The appellants had been ordered to pay 44,000 rupees as damages, and hence the appeal. Their lordships dismissed the appeal with costs, affirming the decision of the Admiralty Court.

MR. C. MAGNIAC has written a letter to *The Times*, urging the necessity for action being taken with reference to the neutrality of the Suez Canal. He states that there are no regulations respecting the transit of war vessels, and consequently Turkey might impede those of Russia. On the other hand, Russia might establish a blockade of Suez or Alexandria, to be raised only if her ships were allowed to pass.

THE P. and O. steamship Poonah, while in the Suez Canal, experienced a severe sand storm, which commenced at sunrise and continued, more or less furiously, until five in the afternoon. During the storm she lay right across the Canal powerless. Tons of sand were thrown on the deck, and the masts and gear were covered with a thick coating.

The Nederland Company's steamship Prins van Orange, Captain J. F. Aukes, sailed from Southampton on the 1st inst. for Padang, Batavia, Sourabaya, &c., with the Dutch mails, troops, passengers, and cargo.

The new iron paddle tug Bangkok, built in Newcastle for Messrs. Pickenpack, Thies, and Co., of Bangkok, Siam, left Falmouth on the 24th ult. for her destination, via Singapore.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CUSTOMS LOAN FOR £1,000,000 sterling, 1870.—Notice is hereby given, that in carrying out the operation of the Sinking Fund of the above Loan,

SERIES 1.—
Nos. 161 to 180—50 Bonds of £1,000 each ... £20,000
321 to 340—40 Bonds of £500 each ... 20,000
4,801 to 5,400—600 Bonds of £100 each ... 60,000

Total £100,000
have this day been DRAWN, by lot in the presence of a partner in the firm of Messrs J. Henry Schroder and Co., and of the undersigned Notary Public, to be Paid Off on the 1st August next, on which day all interest will cease and determine.

J. HENRY SCHRODER and Co.
Counter-signed—S. C. HARRIS, Notary Public.
London, May 6, 1877.



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Achilles, s.s.	—	Alfred Holt	May 14
Patroclus, s.s.	—	do.	May 16

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To the Proprietors of
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Yokohama	

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, August 30, 1861.
PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,500,000.
RESERVED FUNDS, £500,000

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at Bombay, Calcutta, Cape Town, Colombo, Foochow, Hong Kong, Kanton, Madras, Manilla, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, and Yokohama on terms which may be ascertained at their Office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Route.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above-named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of £100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms for which may be ascertained on application at their Office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturdays, Ten to Two. Threadneedle-street London, 1877.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

Incorporated by National Decrees of 7th and 8th of March, 1848, and by Imperial Decree of 30th July, 18th and 31st December, 1866.

Recognised by the International Convention of 30th April, 1863.

Capital, fully paid up... £3,500,000
Reserved fund... £500,000

£4,000,000

CHIEF MANAGER.—Monsr. G. Girod.

HEAD OFFICE.—14, Rue Berger, Paris.

LONDON OFFICE.—144, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

LONDON BANKERS.—The Bank of England, the Union Bank of London.

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Current accounts are kept at the Head Office on the terms customary with London Bankers, and interest allowed when the credit balance does not fall below £100. Deposits received for fixed periods on the following terms, viz.:—At 5 per cent. per annum, subject to twelve months' notice of withdrawal. For shorter periods deposits will be received on terms to be agreed upon. Bills issued at the current exchange of the day on any of the branches of the Bank free of extra charge; and approved bills purchased or sent for collection. Sales and purchases effected in British and Foreign Securities, in East India Stock and Loans, and the safe custody of the same undertaken. Interest drawn, and Army, Navy, and Civil Pay and Pensions realised. Every other description of Bankers' Business and Money Agency, British and Indian, transacted.

J. THOMSON, Chairman.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital, \$5,000,000. All paid up.

Reserve Fund, \$500,000.

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E. F. Duncanson, Esq. (of Messrs. T. A. Gibb and Co.).

A. H. Phillips, Esq. (of Messrs. E. and A. Deacon).

MANAGERS.—David McLean, 31, Lombard-street, E.C.

BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS.

Hong Kong, Hankow, Shanghai, Yokohama, Singapore, Foochow, Hioogo, Bombay, Ningpo, Manila, Calcutta.

The Corporation grant Drafts upon, and negotiate or collect Bills at any of the Branches or Agencies; also receive Deposits for fixed periods, at rates varying with the period of deposit.

The Corporation issue Letters of Credit, negotiable in the principal cities of Europe, Asia, and America, for the use of travellers.

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They also undertake the Agency of constituents connected with the East, and receive for safe custody Indian and other Government Securities, drawing interest and Dividends on the same as they fall due.

Dividends are payable in London on receipt of the advice of meeting in Hong Kong, held in February and August.

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ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION are prepared to ISSUE DRAFTS at sight on the Bank of California, San Francisco, the terms for which may be ascertained at their Office.

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VAN

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THE foundation stone was laid in 1856 by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The building was intended to accommodate seventy-five pupils, and was opened in 1857. The cost was £7,000. The Institution became a decided success, the number of boys rapidly rose to seventy-five, and in addition to these there were in attendance as day pupils twenty of the sons of gentlemen of the neighbourhood, it being thought advantageous that the missionaries' children should mix freely with boys born and brought up in England. For some years past there has been a growing difficulty in obtaining a sufficient income to keep the Institution in working order (probably in consequence of a very general impression that one or two of the Missionary Societies supported the School), so that it has been found needful to reduce the number of pupils to fifty. A meeting of subscribers was lately called to consider the expediency of closing the School. The result, however, was a vigorous effort to raise the necessary funds to carry it on efficiently. The appeal was warmly responded to, and £1,000 was obtained. The debt has been paid off, some necessary repairs effected, and the hope is that the Home and School, so valued by our noble band of missionaries, will be raised to a state of efficiency equal to that of its best days.

The Committee is happy to have as the present Head Master the Rev. Edward Waite, M.A., a gentleman of high literary qualifications, while Mrs. Waite is a true mother to the boys. There is an efficient staff of masters assisting Mr. Waite, and every confidence is felt that such an education is being given as will afford entire satisfaction both to the parents and the subscribers. The Institution is *scholarship-school* in its character. The total number of boys received since 1853 is 307. Of these 178 were the sons of missionaries of the London Missionary Society, Baptist, 75; Presbyterian, 23; Wesleyan, Episcopalian, and others, 23.

The school is not intended for merely secular instruction; the spiritual interests of the boys are carefully attended to; they are diligently instructed in the truths of Holy Scripture, their conduct constantly watched over, and the whole of their school life pervaded by Christian influence. The Committee are aware that the character of education in general has been much improved in recent years, and being anxious not to fall behind any similar institution, have tested the progress of the boys periodically by Cambridge University Examiners and otherwise, with very satisfactory results. They desire to stimulate the diligence of the boys by offering for competition at least one scholarship—or by a grant should be equivalent to a scholarship p. Some of the boys show excellent capacities, which would justify the highest opportunities of culture.

The terms on which pupils were originally received were £15 per annum. The charge is now £18, which, considering the increased cost of provisions, &c., is barely equal to the £15 of former times.

The Committee earnestly and urgently solicit the annual assistance of all friends who are able to help the Institution by their contributions. They cordially thank the liberal contributors to the Special Fund above referred to, and beg again to remind them and other friends of the School that it is entirely dependent upon the payments of the parents, and upon voluntary subscriptions, there being no endowment of any kind, or any other source of income, with the exception of an Annual Donation from the executors of a deceased friend to which, however, there is no legal claim.

Subscriptions received by Dr. Milnes, London Missionary Society; Rev. Joseph Bazley, 13, Paragon, Blackheath; A. H. Rateman, Esq., Devonshire House, Blackheath, S.E.; or by the Agents of this Paper at the ports of the Far East.

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A Telegram dated Singapore, 23rd April, advises that the recent Fire has in no way interfered with the business of the Company. The Fire was confined to the Coals stored behind the Wharf; and the Dock Wharves, Warehouses, and Machinery are uninjured.

All branches of the business are being continued as usual.

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via SUEZ CANAL.—The PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY'S STEAMERS sail from Southampton, via the Suez Canal, as follows:—

Port	Tons	H.p.	May	Day	Destination
Pekin	3,777	600	May 1 st		Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay.
Australia	3,003	500	May 17		Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, Japan, & Queensland.
Mirzapur	3,763	600	May 24		Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay.
Hindostan	2,933	450	May 31		Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, Japan, and Australia.

* Taking passengers for Bombay also by branch steamer from Suez.

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For Passage, Rates of Freight, and Particulars see the Company's handbook, and apply at the Company's London Head Office, 97, Cannon-street, E.C.; or at the West End Sub-Agency, 51, Pall-mall, S.W.

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FRANK VAN ORANJE, 3,000 tons, May 1.
* HOLLAND, 2,500 tons, May 11.
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For Freight, apply to SHAW, WILLIAMS, and Co., 9, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.

LYN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS.—INDIA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.—The undernamed powerful Clyde-built BOATS, specially adapted for the India, China, and Japan trade, are intended to be despatched on these advertised dates for SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, and SHANGHAI, taking goods at through rates for SAIGON, YOKOHAMA, NAGASAKI, and HUGO:—

Steamers.	Class.	Tons.	Horse-power.	Date of Sailing.
Glenfalloch	100 A1	2,136	275	May 10
Glenear	100 A1	2,121	260	To follow
State of Louisiana	100 A1	1,869	240	To follow
Glenlyon	100 A1	2,119	275	To follow
Gleneggie	100 A1	2,800	330	To follow
Glenarney	100 A1	2,108	330	To follow
Glenearn	100 A1	2,120	330	To follow
Glenfinlas	100 A1	2,120	330	To follow
Glenval	100 A1	1,676	300	To follow
Glenorchy	100 A1	2,788	400	To follow

* For terms of Freight and Passage apply to McGARROD, Gow, and Co., No. 1, East India-street, London, E.C.

GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL, and CO.'S regular line of steamers, via SUEZ CANAL, to PENANG, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, CHINA, and JAPAN:—

Ports	Ship.	Class.	Tons.	Do.	Sailing.
Pekin, Sing., Hong Kong, Yokohama, and Hio.	Lorne	100 A1	1,614	V.I.D.	May 10
Do.	Athol	100 A1	1,608	V.I.D.	To follow

For Freight or Passage, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL, and Co., Albert-square, Manchester; 1, Fenwick-street, Liverpool; 51, Pall-mall, S.W.; or 109, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

Steam via the Suez Canal. To sail May 10.

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Shanghai	Wyle	A1 16 yr.	E.I.D.	With des.
Yokohama	Lochair	A1 16 yr.	—	With des.

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Hong Kong	Kate Carnie	A1	S.W.I.D.	With des.
Hong Kong	Lord of the Isles	A1 10 yr.	W.I.D.	To follow
Yokohama	King of Sweden	100 A1	W.I.D.	With des.

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For Freight or Passage apply to NORTON and JONES, 136, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C. (corner of Cornhill).

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Vessel.	Class.	Tonnage.	Do.	Last ship.
Wigton	A 100	737	W.I.	Sailed, Mar. 24
Abbey Cowper	A 100	899	W.I.	Sailed, Apr. 20
Birchdale	A 100	868	W.I.	May 20
Abbe Town	A 100	772	W.I.	To follow
Vale of Don	A 100	809	W.I.	To follow
Vale of Nith	A 100	897	W.I.	To follow
Benchutha	A 100	971	W.I.	To follow
Stuart	A 100	890	W.I.	To follow
Overdale	A 100	890	W.I.	To follow

For Freight or Passage apply to the Owners, JOHN HAY and Co., 28, Brunswick-street, Liverpool, and 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

BLUE DIAMOND LINE.—ANTWERP to SHANGHAI.

Vessel.	Class.	Tonnage.	Do.	Last ship.
Wigton	A 100	737	—	Sailed
Edward Barrow	1/2 L.I.	958	—	May
Al Ship	—	—	—	To follow

Apply to J. P. BERT and Co., Antwerp; or to the Owners, JOHN HAY and Co., 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

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